

Hafa Adai!

Man accused of impersonating cop to rob a man pleads not guilty. PAGE 3
NMTI lays the groundwork for trades professionals. PAGE 6

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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FISHING ENTHUSIASTS

Guam fishermen aboard their vessels have started arriving at the Smiling Cove Marina ahead of the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament this Saturday. According to one sailor, around six boats arrived on Saipan yesterday, with many more arriving from Guam today.

JOSHUA SANTOS

Target: 70% by end of July

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The aim is to have at least 70% of the CNMI's eligible population vaccinated against COVID-19 by the end of July, according to COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez yesterday.



Villagomez

Right now, 66.4% of all who are 12 years old and older have already received their first dose of the vaccine,

Villagomez said. This means that, together with the CNMI's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation practices that are

in place, domestic normalcy is not impossible to achieve, he added.

See TARGET on Page 4

'OPA has not had stable finances since '90s'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Autonomous agencies have almost never made their 1% payments to Office of the Pub-

lic Auditor as required by the NMI Constitution and that uncollected balances since 1996 are now reaching \$30 million, according to Public Auditor Kina Borja Peter yesterday.

At OPA's budget hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, Peter said OPA has always received 1% allocations from the general

See OPA on Page 4

'Torreses' travel to Montana cost govt \$24,297'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres traveled on business or first class during the governor's official trip to Montana—with a stop in Oregon and Idaho—on June 23 to July 2, 2017, and that costs the government a

total of \$24,297.

Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) presented documents about the 2017 trip as Department of Finance's finance and accounting director Bernadita C. Palacios appeared before the House Judiciary and Governmen-



Torres

tal Operations Committee last Tuesday. The committee, chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) is investigating the Torreses' expenditures and travels.

Palacios agreed with Sablan that, based on the documents,

See TRAVEL on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:37pm, July 7, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population
Fully Vaccinated: **65.5%**
Days since last community transmission **106**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	25,585
Fully Vaccinated:	23,403
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,144
Fully Vaccinated:	3,888
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	458

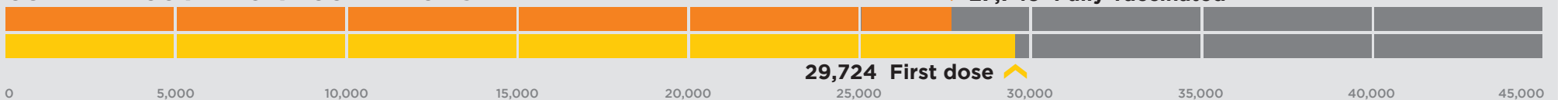
GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,394	14	8,408
Recovered	8,155	33	8,188
Active	66	14	80
Deaths	140	0	140
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	181,135		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	184	0	184
Traced via Travel Screening	148	0	148
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	33,243*		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



INSIDE



LOCAL

The Marianas Tourism Education Council is reviving its MTEC Scholarship Program.

PAGE 7



BUSINESS

A store that sells pre-loved items has opened besides Kylie's Bakeshop in Gualo Rai.

PAGE 11



ENVIRONMENT

A \$1 plastic bag fee is being proposed to discourage the use of plastic bags in the CNMI.

PAGE 14



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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

ANNOUNCEMENT



The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning June 01, 2021 through July 09, 2021; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 09, 2021.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

WIC is an equal opportunity provider. The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (CFDA #10.557, Federal Award Identification Number 217NMNM5W1003). The contents above are solely the responsibility of the CHCC and do not necessarily reflect the official views of United States Department of Agriculture.

Local

SCA inks lease for new site

Beth Pliscou of Saipan Cares for Animals signed Tuesday the lease for a new site in As Lito where the animal welfare nonprofit group will soon transfer, in compliance with Zoning regulations.

It was learned from its Facebook page that Pliscou signed the lease with Lynette Lizama Villagomez, who reportedly reached out to SCA a few months ago after learning about the group's urgent need for a new space for SCA. "She offered to give us a 10-year lease on her huge 6,000-square-meter piece of land for an affordable price in order to help the people and animals of Saipan," the Facebook post stated.

SCA, which is currently located in As Gonno, clarified that it is not moving yet to the new location as there is still a lot to do before the land is ready for move in. SCA described its new site as completely undeveloped right now and will need to be bulldozed and cleared "before we can even begin to think of fencing, kennels, or building a new clinic complete with power, water, and sewage."

SCA hopes to be able to accomplish all of this in the next six months, but that all depends on the Zoning board's decision whether to allow SCA to keep operating at its current place while SCA gets the new location ready for move in.

"If the Zoning board does not grant us this extension, we will have to stop all operations by the end of July and will not be able to renew the lease at our current location. SCA cannot afford even a temporary cessation of services; it is likely that we would have to close permanently. We would

be faced with the prospect of finding homes for the 100+ animals in our care, and with the prospect of being forced to euthanize those who could not be re-homed," the Facebook post added.

Zoning is requiring SCA to move to a bigger site in compliance with zoning regulations. SCA has agreed to do that but is appealing to Zoning to allow it to keep operating while they get the new site ready to move in. Zoning held a public hearing yesterday to solicit comments about this and will decide in the days to come. *(Saipan Tribune)*

TakeCare sues IPI for over \$200K

TakeCare Insurance Company Inc. is suing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for over \$200,000 for alleged breach of contract.

TakeCare filed the complaint against IPI last week in the U.S District Court for the NMI, asking the court to issue a judgment against the defendant in the principal amount of \$224,675.18 plus interest, attorney's fees and costs.

According to the com-

plaint, TakeCare, represented by attorney Steven Pixley, provided prepaid medical and dental insurance services for IPI's employees on Saipan for June, July, and August 2020, yet IPI failed to pay for these services.

"The principal amount due is \$215,491.82. However, despite repeated demands, Imperial Pacific failed to pay TakeCare for these services,"

See TAKECARE on Page 4

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Man accused of impersonating cop to rob a man pleads not guilty

A man accused of impersonating a Department of Public Safety Police Officer to rob another person has pleaded not guilty in Superior Court.

Andy Nekaifes, 27, pleaded not guilty last week before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja to one count of disturbing the peace, impersonating an officer, and robbery.

According to court documents, Nekaifes allegedly admitted to police that he impersonated a police officer during the early hours of June 11 while taking advantage of a drunk, elderly man in order to rob him.

Police records state that DPS responded to a call about a theft incident at the LBC building in Garapan at around 2:16am on June 11. The caller, Ernie Moises, is a security guard in the area who allegedly witnessed the incident.

Moises, who worked at the nearby Club 88, said he was doing a security check in the area when he noticed Rex Fontanaras' car parked near the LBC building. He said he went to check the car and noticed Fontanaras asleep so he left.

Five minutes later, he said he heard shouting in the area and when he went to check, he allegedly saw a man pull Fontanaras out of his vehicle, showed him a badge, made him get on the ground, and went inside Fontanaras' vehicle.

At the scene, police spoke with Fontanaras, the victim, who told them that someone, later identified as Nekaifes, stole his wallet at around 1:55am.

The victim said Nekaifes came down from Honey Bee Bar on the second floor of the LBC building, and stated that he was a police officer while showing him a badge clipped to his belt.

Fontanaras said Nekaifes then pushed him onto the hood of his car and told him to place his hands behind his head. In addition, the victim said Nekaifes demanded he give him

his wallet if he did not want to get "beaten up." After taking the wallet, the victim said Nekaifes got into a silver SUV

and sped off.

Nekaifes was later found at the 618 KTV Bar in Chalan Kanoa. There, police ques-

tioned him about his whereabouts that night. He claimed he was at the KTV Bar all night but later allegedly admit-

ted to lying about his whereabouts and that he took a wallet from a drunk man in Garapan. He the allowed the po-

lice to search his vehicle where they retrieved Fontanaras' wallet and over \$300. (Kimberly B. Esmores)



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2018 TOYOTA **TUNDRA** SR5 4WD

SALE PRICE **\$44,995** | STK: 18P328 | 32,268 MILES | KBB: \$47,643



2014 MAZDA **MAZDA6** SPORT

• 44,202 MILES
• STK: 19HS901B
• KBB: \$14,024

SALE PRICE **\$12,995**



2016 HYUNDAI **TUCSON** GL

• 47,063 MILES
• STK: M006A
• KBB: \$15,395

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2017 MAZDA **MAZDA3** TOURING H/B

• 21,120 MILES
• STK: 20D013A
• KBB: \$17,801

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**



2019 MITSUBISHI **MIRAGE** HATCHBACK

• 13,280 MILES
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• KBB: \$14,024

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2018 HYUNDAI **ELANTRA** SE

• 29,852 MILES
• STK: 18P323
• KBB: \$16,477

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**



2020 HYUNDAI **ELANTRA** SPORT

• 4,180 MILES
• STK: 20P307
• KBB: \$21,326

SALE PRICE **\$18,995**



2016 TOYOTA **PRIUS C**

• 48,814 MILES
• STK: 20D134A
• KBB: \$16,585

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2015 MAZDA **CX-9** TOURING

• 56,045 MILES
• STK: 21H041A
• KBB: \$16,614

SALE PRICE **\$15,995**



2015 TOYOTA **CAMRY** LE

• 44,202 MILES
• STK: 15P325
• KBB: \$20,295

SALE PRICE **\$18,995**



2016 HYUNDAI **VELOSTER**

• 44,202 MILES
• STK: 20H068-A
• KBB: \$15,830

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2018 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 10,153 MILES
• STK: 18HS905
• KBB: \$19,496

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**



2018 MITSUBISHI **OUTLANDER** SPORT

• 12,549 MILES
• STK: 8M029D
• KBB: \$19,751

SALE PRICE **\$19,995**



2017 MAZDA **MAZDA3** SPORT

• 34,648 MILES
• STK: 20M094A
• KBB: \$14,967

SALE PRICE **\$13,995**



2017 HONDA **HRV** LX

• 39,686 MILES
• STK: 18P317A
• KBB: \$17,453

SALE PRICE **\$16,995**



2011 TOYOTA **4RUNNER**

• 77,762 MILES
• STK: 11P314
• KBB: \$21,336

SALE PRICE **\$19,995**



2018 KIA **FORTE** HATCHBACK

• 10,564 MILES
• STK: 18HS916
• KBB: \$15,477

SALE PRICE **\$14,995**



2018 KIA **OPTIMA** LX

• 10,367 MILES
• STK: 18HS925C
• KBB: \$19,930

SALE PRICE **\$17,995**



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• KBB: \$28,460

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TRAVEL

From Page 1

the total cost to the government for this trip alone was \$24,297, inclusive of stipend, and airfare for the Torres couple.

Sablan showed Palacios a travel authorization that indicates that Torres and his wife were traveling to Montana, and stopping in Portland, Oregon, and Boise, Idaho on or about June 23, 2017 to July 2, 2017. The travel authorization was dated June 19, 2017.

Palacios said the travel voucher indicated that the governor and first lady made personal stops in Boise, Idaho.

Sablan said the travel authorization indicates that the purpose of this trip was to meet with officials of U.S. Fish and Wildlife on the Mariana Trench National Monument in Portland, Oregon, and to attend the 2017 Western Governors' Association in Whitefish, Montana. The travel authorization also notes that "travel will be performed in the best interest of the CNMI."

Palacios agreed with Sablan that, based on the airline itinerary and boarding passes, the governor and first lady both traveled on first or business class and that the total cost of airfare was \$23,302, or \$11,651 each. Palacios said there was no trip report submitted.

The director said she is not aware of any public purpose for the first lady participating in this trip.

Palacios identified one document showed by Sablan as an invitation attached to the Western Governors Association meeting, and the confirmation



House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) is in a huddle with some committee members during a power outage that briefly delayed the testimony of Department of Finance's finance and accounting director Bernadita C. Palacios.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

page for the governor's registration.

Palacios agreed with Sablan that she does not see any supporting documents for Torres meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials in Oregon.

Palacios said that, according to the travel voucher presented, the governor and the first lady spent about two days in Oregon, on June 23 to 25, 2017.

"But we don't actually know if there was a meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife or any official government business conducted during this trip because there is no trip report?" Sablan asked, to which Palacios agreed.

Sablan said Torres also received a stipend in this trip for \$199 a day, for

a total of \$995 for five days.

Palacios said that stipend, which is less than per diem, covers the same thing as a per diem: lodging, room, meal, and other things. Palacios said an official gets a stipend while on government travel, and could be later reimbursed for itemized expenditures if he or she is hosting others.

Sablan stated that if the governor received a stipend, that should have been enough to cover lodging and meals for that entire trip.

Palacios said stipend generally covers meals, and per diem covers room and board.

Palacios said all government employees get some kind of funding to cover their meals while they are on

travel, whether they receive a stipend or per diem.

The director said CNMI government employees get reimbursed for hosting other CNMI government employees while they are on travel.

Sablan showed a request for reimbursement that Torres submitted on Aug. 29, 2017, to then-Finance secretary Larrisa Larson. Sablan said the request was submitted approximately two months after that trip.

Sablan showed a receipt included in the reimbursement request for hosting a party of six on the evening of June 27, 2017, at the Still Water Restaurant in Whitefish, Montana. Sablan said the receipt includes orders of king crab, aged ribeye, salmon, oysters, and alcohol, for a total of \$261.

Sablan said that, according to the memo, the governor was hosting personal security detail personnel at the Still Water Restaurant on June 27, 2017.

Palacios said she does not see from the documents any names of individuals hosted on that night. Palacios agreed with Sablan that assuming all six guests were personal security detail personnel on official government travel, each of them would have had

their own stipend or per diem.

She also agreed with Sablan that all of the government employees on that trip, including the governor, would have received some kind of compensation from the government for their meals.

Palacios said the governor was reimbursed by the government on top of that for hosting the six for meals.

With respect to Diann Torres, the director said the first lady doesn't typically get a stipend or per diem while traveling with the governor.

Sablan asked if or could the governor reimburse himself for the first lady's meals and her other expenses while she's traveling with him. "I don't know. I'm not sure if he can do that," Palacios replied.

Palacios said that, based on reading the documents presented, Torres received a total of \$995 per diem during that trip.

Sablan said the travel authorization provides for \$199 for five days, for a total of \$995.

"So how do we know which five days were authorized in this trip?" Sablan asked. Palacios replied that it's from the day the governor left and the day he returned, minus the days in Boise.

OPA

From Page 1

fund and that this has made whole their expenditures.

OPA is funded through allocation of 1% of all locally generated funds. Any unencumbered funds are remitted back to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

Peter said while OPA has no claims to the full amount nor able to claim prior fiscal year uncollected balances, these amounts are due the government.

"Consequently, the failure of autonomous agencies to make annual 1% allocation means our office has not had a stable funding source dating back to the late 1990s," she added.

For fiscal year 2022, OPA requested a budget of \$2.5 million, which includes an estimated calculation for 1% funding source from the general fund and autonomous agencies.

The autonomous agencies are the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Development Authority, Northern Marianas College, Marianas Public Land Trust, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the initial budget proposal for OPA was \$809,000 but the administration's revised budget that

it submitted last Friday now show that OPA stands to receive \$993,804.

Peter said inadequate funding has caused OPA's size to shrink. In 2004, OPA had five audit managers, 14 audit staff members, two lawyers, and five investigators. Now, OPA has one audit manager, eight audit staff members, one lawyer, and three investigators.

Peter said austerity measures and the lack of competitive benefits and salary compensation has caused OPA to lose four employees in the past two years.

Yet while OPA's available resources have dwindled, the demand for OPA's skill sets have never been higher, she said.

The public auditor noted that in the past few years, OPA has been delegated additional statutory requirements such as running the Citizen Centric Report program for the government, as well as assisting in all elections.

"Today, OPA increasingly receives requests for special reports, audits, and investigations, causing a backlog," she said.

Peter said OPA believes these requests will increase as the amount of federal aid coming into the CNMI increases.

The public auditor said their lack of funding does not allow OPA to address potential unanticipated increases in workload nor does it give an opportunity to develop a strategic plan with stable funding sources.

TAKECARE

From Page 2

Pixley said. "Imperial Pacific's failure to pay for the healthcare insurance services provided by TakeCare constitutes a breach of the written contract between the parties."

On June 10, 2021, a formal notice of TakeCare's intention to file a civil action in the District Court was personally served on Imperial Pacific's account manager.

Meanwhile, in a filed status report last Monday, IPI's parent company, Imperial Pacific International Holdings or IPIH, continues to uphold its settlement payments with the U.S. Department of Labor, directly paying its July 2021 settlement payment by wire transfer last July 2.

According to IPI counsel Mi otts, previous payments were made by IPI itself using funds in the CNMI, but because this payment was a wire transfer, it was submitted a day late. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

TARGET

From Page 1

"We are looking at 70% of the population to be vaccinated by the end of the month as we continue to do everything that is in place. ...Our goal is to reach herd immunity at 80% by September, so individuals should remain cautious and have the option to continue wearing face masks, practice social distancing so we can go back to pre-pandemic times throughout the Commonwealth," Villagomez said as guest speaker of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom in Garapan.

"We hope to push 80% quicker with all the efforts and incentive programs that we're working on together with the administration, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and COVID-19 Task Force. ...We are continuously looking closely at border protection because that is our safety net at all levels," he added.

Villagomez said that he, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and CHCC CEO Esther Muna have been talking about changes to the border protection measures when the CNMI reaches 70% vaccination rate. For returning vaccinated residents, that could mean no swabbing at the airport. They can be released but they are required to still undergo the fifth day testing, he said.

"...As we all know, there is still a variety of risks and variants out there that are still mutating and we want to

make sure we do not let our guards down. The whole-government approach is that protection on our borders will be enhanced and protected so more people can continue activities like gathering in meetings like how we are today," he said.

"These vaccinated people coming in will definitely be verified and, therefore, we are not taking out all the verification tools. ...The declaration form is our tool to be able to do contact tracing and get other information that we need to assist us and our staff for any possible COVID-19 infection. ...That is why they need to come back. ...They will be notified where to go on the fifth day, whether it is in Kanoa Resort or Mariana [Resort]," he added.

Last month, CHCC and the COVID-19 Task Force placed the CNMI under Level Green, which means that community vulnerability is at its lowest risk for COVID-19.

According to Villagomez, the CNMI reached Level Green by working together. "There was a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Federal Emergency Management Agency projection that the CNMI will head up to 8,000 COVID-19 infections by April 2020. We were able to...flatten that projection. ...The priority was to protect the health and safety of CNMI residents and prevent an outbreak...so there was an increase in health screening as well as community based testing throughout Saipan, Tinian and Rota, establishing protocols and, of course,

cost containment measures to stabilize government services," he said.

"Level Green means that we have reached 60% or more in vaccination rate. If you're fully vaccinated, you are able to participate in outdoor and indoor activities in accordance with CDC guidelines. Unvaccinated individuals should remain cautious and continue to wear face masks and practice social distancing at all times, especially in the company of others who are not vaccinated and those whose vaccines cannot be verified," he added.

As for Level Green protocols for businesses, Villagomez said that compliance monitoring and enforcement should be continuous. "To ensure customers and staff are protected, CNMI businesses are urged to confirm the vaccination status as 'fully vaccinated' before letting them take off masks ... 'Fully vaccinated' means that the entity has documentation showing that the person received at least 14 days prior either the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccines must be Food and Drug Administration approved or have an emergency use authorization from the FDA," he said.

"Customers and staff are not required to disclose their vaccine status but businesses and other entities have the option to enforce it. If businesses choose not to enforce or simply cannot verify the vaccination status, entities should follow guideline that limit occupancy and enforce mask wearing," he added.



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2X BONUS
POINTS ITEM
SALE PRICE
\$2⁶⁹



CORRECTIONS ACADEMY

Former Northern Marianas College interim president Frankie M. Eliptico, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios, and Department of Corrections Commissioner Wally F. Villagomez are joined by members of the NMC Board of Regents and DOC personnel after the signing of a memorandum of agreement between NMC and DOC at the college's Board of Regents conference room Wednesday last week for a joint operation between the two institutions to run a Corrections Academy at the college for DOC cadets.

JOSHUA SANTOS

NMTI lays the groundwork for trades professionals

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to questions why the Northern Marianas Technical Institute's ongoing five-week summer program is targeting middle schoolers, NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao believes in the long-term benefits of reaching out to the youth.

"The younger the mind we tap into and the more exposure we give these kids to all the different trades out there, the better direction they will have [in the future] to know what they actually want to do when they grow up," said Attao.

That's mainly because many have the mistaken idea that pursuing a trade is just a fallback option. Attao explained

that it has been her experience that, as people age, their openness and reception to new options gradually decreases. She acknowledges that there are adults and high schoolers who have a clear interest in pursuing a trade, but Attao said she also understands that changing an older person's mind on the trades or getting an otherwise uninterested person interested

in the trades is a challenge.

"It's easier to leave an impression on a younger person than it is to leave an impression on an older person," said Attao.

By reaching out to the youth—even if the benefits of the approach will possibly take many years to come to fruition—Attao hopes to increase the number of future

students who graduate from high school and decide to pursue a trade.

NMTI's five-week summer program for 35 Tanapag Middle School students, which is set to go on from June 29 to Aug. 2, will expose the students to interactive courses in the culinary arts; electron-

ics; carpentry; welding and heating; venting and air conditioning; and auto mechanical work. In the final week of the pilot summer program, the students will be treated to field trips where they will be exposed to real-life applications of some of the things they learned.

Brunch and gift cards up for grabs in vaccine raffle

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a bid to further boost efforts to get more of the CNMI population vaccinated against COVID-19, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be awarding a brunch voucher for two and two \$20 gift certificates in a raffle for those who have received their first vaccine dose by July 9.

Names will be drawn on

Monday, July 12, and the raffle is open to everyone in the CNMI who have had their first dose already by this Friday. According to CHCC's vaccination dashboard, more than 29,600 individuals are automatically entered in the raffle.

The brunch voucher is for a meal for two at The Magellan of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, while the \$20 gift certificates is for iShop Saipan,

which can be redeemed at any of their three locations at the Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort Saipan, and Paseo de Marianas.

As shared by a CHCC representative by email on Tuesday, the prizes were donated to CHCC in May. Among the several companies that donated and supports CHCC's mission of vaccinating the CNMI against COVID-19 are Kensington Hotel, Coral

Ocean Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Tribes Bar, and iShop Saipan. "We all benefit from working toward ending this pandemic and these vaccines are important tools in achieving our goal," said CHCC.

Those wishing to receive their first dose can schedule an appointment by either registering online at www.vaccinatecnmi.com or calling 670-682-SHOT (7468).


COMMUNITY BRIEFS

5.0-magnitude quake in Guam

At 8:17 am on July 7, 2021 a report of a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 105 kilometers south of Merizo in Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000.m(PR)

BECQ monthly beach cleanup on July 10

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will be picking up trash at Pau Pau Beach on July 10, 2021, from 8 am to 10 am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ Beach Cleanup representatives on Saturday at the Pau Pau Beach parking area at 8 am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10:30 am. For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

This is to inform the general public that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Central Office in Garapan and the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, will be closed on **Friday, July 9, 2021 from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM** for an agency-wide Professional Development. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:30 AM.


The **NMHC Tinian Field Office** will be closed on **Friday, July 9, 2021 at 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM**. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:30 AM.

The **NMHC Rota Field Office** will be closed on **Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 7:30 AM to Friday, July 9, 2021 at 4:30 PM**. Normal Business hours will resume on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7:30 AM.

We thank you for your understanding and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Marcie Tomokane
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: July 8, 2021

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the proposed issuance of the 2022 NPDES construction general permit (CGP) for stormwater discharges from construction activity disturbing one or more acres, which will replace the existing CGP issued in February 2017. Information about the determination can be accessed via the DCRM website at:

<https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/EPA-NPDES-CGP-Determination-6.14.2021.pdf>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on July 8, 2021 and ending on July 23, 2021. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.




JOB VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-004	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	JULY 6, 2021	JULY 20, 2021
LOCATION	MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY, SAIPAN		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.



INVITATION TO BID

MVA-ITB-21-2029

Acquisition of Riding Mower for MVA Tinian and MVA Rota

Submission /Closing Date: **July 22, 2021**

Submit sealed proposals to:

Time: **2:00 p.m.**

Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested firms may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **June 16, 2021** at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Bids submitted from firms outside the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before **July 22, 2021** and must be received by MVA within seven (7) working days of that date. Bidders from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer, Ms. Lenette Maratita in writing of their intent to bid in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Bid Documents. This notice of intent to bid may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 2:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on **July 08, 2021** and must reference **"MVA-ITB-21-2029"** on the subject line.

/s/ Elisbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

MTEC to bring back scholarship next school year

The Marianas Tourism Education Council will revive its MTEC Scholarship Program in school year 2021-2022, aimed at encouraging graduating high school seniors to pursue higher education.

The MTEC board will award a \$2,000 scholarship and a \$1,000 scholarship for two seniors from the class of 2022 who have been members of a MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club for at least one year in high school.

"We are encouraging the students to participate in a MY WAVE Club, which they can join starting from the 5th grade up to 12th grade level," said acting MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "The MTEC Scholarship is made possible through the work of the MTEC board of directors and from our generous sponsors and businesses who have a stake in the islands' tourism and hospitality industry."

The first MTEC Scholarship was issued in 2017 to Saipan Southern High graduate Renafe Aniga, who began studying Hospitality Management at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Aniga recently graduated with a degree in psychology and reflected on



MTEC
Saipan Southern High School alumna Renafe Aniga (Class of 2017) has graduated with a degree in psychology from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Aniga received the first Marianas Tourism Education Council scholarship in May 2017.

the impact on her life of her scholarship. involvement with MYWAVE "I especially remembered and receiving the MTEC the great influences of my

life that helped me succeed, particularly the MY WAVE Club. Since my middle school years and all throughout high school [on] Saipan, I was heavily engaged with this student organization. My involvement as a member and an officer allowed me to improve myself as an individual while learning about the importance of the hospitality industry in the Marianas," Aniga said. "Being in MY WAVE inspired me to pursue a degree in hospitality management. ...This big move came with its challenges, financial and otherwise. Thankfully, through the MTEC Scholarship, I was able to afford and pursue higher education at a great institution. This aid alleviat-

ed one of the many pressures I had as a first-generation college student, allowing me to focus on my studies."

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following requirements:

■ Have at least one-year membership in a high school MY WAVE Club

■ Submission of official transcript from last high school attended showing GPA of 3.0 or higher

■ Recommendation letter from a current or former teacher, MY WAVE club adviser, counselor, or administrator

■ Essay submission from applicant, describing career pathway/goals and purpose of study (300-500 -word limit, typed)

■ Acceptance letter from university or college applied to

■ Three proof of MY WAVE Club active participation

■ Submission of the MY WAVE Club/Community Involvement Summary

Applications will be available at the MVA office when the new school year starts.

In addition to Benavente, MTEC board members include Priscilla M. Iakopo (Marianas Visitors Authority), Martin Duenas (Marianas Visitors Authority), Frankie Eliptico (Northern Marianas College), Larry Lee, Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Gordon Marciano (PDI), Catherine Perry (Integrity Communications), and Glenn Policare (Kanoa Resort). **(PR)**



Faith, Hope and
KARIDAT
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

Request for Proposal for Hardscaping

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform hardscaping repairs at the Sister Remedios Community Center in Chalan Kanoa. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's office at Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan or mailed to Karidat Social Services; P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950 by July 23, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

I. Contents of Proposal: The following information must be included in the Hardscaping Proposal:

- A. Title Page Containing
 1. RFP Subject
 2. Name of the Firm
 3. Local Address
 4. Telephone Number(s)
 5. Email address
 6. Name of contact person
 7. Submission date

II. Transmittal Letter:

- A. A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
- B. State all inclusive fees for which the hardscaping will be performed.

III. Firm Profile:

Provide a brief description of you firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listing of clients serviced.

IV. Proposal Evaluation Criteria: The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following hardscaping criteria. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.

1. Hardscaping coverage
 - A. Remove and replace 725 LF of Chain Link Fence 5 FT high with 2 FT Concrete block Retaining wall, fence posts are 2.5 IN DIA 10.5 FT centers with 2.5 IN DIA contiguous top rails.
 - B. Remove and replace 800 LF of Chain Link Fencing, Fence is 6 FT high with 2 FT concrete block retaining wall, fence posts are 2.5 IN DIA on 10.5 FT centers with 2.5 IN DIA contiguous top rails.
 - C. Remove and replace Flag Pole, 1 each Flag Pole, 22.5 LF.
 - D. Replace 1 each Wooden Playground equipment with a rock wall, tube slide, regular slide and tower.

Project Notes: The fencing is perimeter fencing for the facility, not a stand-alone fence. The GPS per the SIR for the perimeter fence is: LAT: 15.1482050, LONG: 145.7031512.

2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
 - B. Qualifications and experience of the firm
 1. Size and structure of the firm
 2. Ability to maintain continuity of project
 3. Experience of the firm
 - C. Qualification and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered
 1. Supervision to be exercised over the construction team
 - D. Contractor will be responsible for acquiring all required permits such as but not limited to: Historic Preservation and Zoning Permits.

V. Hardscaping Administration Matters:

- A. Hardscaping Planning meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials
 1. Karidat's Board of Directors, the Executive Director and the Administrative Officer, FEMA Representatives, CNMI Public Assistance Office Representatives.
- B. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on July 30, 2021.
- C. The hardscaping field work must be completed in 30 days of notice to proceed.

VI. Confidentiality of Hardscaping Proposals: All hardscaping proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat's Office located at the Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan.



Finance Manager

Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022

Job Description:

Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee wishes to recruit a Finance Manager to be responsible for financial management of the NMPMG2022. The Finance Manager will be report directly to the CEO. Finance Manager is a key senior management position requiring the services of an experienced and competent individual to facilitate NMPMG2022 financial planning, analysis and projection for games; forecast future revenues and expenditures to establish cost structures and determine capital budgeting for event. Works with Office of the CNMI Secretary of Finance and other executive-level team members to set organizing committee investment direction and policies.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Finance Manager leverage strong accounting and compliance backgrounds to explore historical financial data, predict future results and drive process and policy improvements. Day-to-day responsibilities for games financial include:

- Analyzing current games financial data and performance
- Preparing games reports and projections based on this analysis
- Evaluating current games capital expenditures and depreciation
- Exploring games investment opportunities
- Establishing and evaluating financial analysis plans
- Identifying trends in games financial performance and providing recommendations for improvement
- Coordinating with other game organizing committee members of the finance team to review financial information and forecasts
- Providing game financial models and forecasting

Finance Manager should possess the following essential qualities.

- Expert-level analytical and financial modeling skills
- Strategic thinking
- Great presentation skills
- Ability to influence and persuade
- Knowledge of ERP systems and related technologies
- Excellent time management and organizational ability
- Ability to multitask and meet constant deadlines
- Willingness to work long hours, when necessary

Required education for Finance Manager

At a minimum, financial manager is expected to hold a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, statistics, economics, business administration or another related field.

Salary: \$50,000 per year (Aug. 2021-July 2022)

Language: Fluency in English; Chamorro and or Carolinian an advantage

How to Apply: If you meet the above requirement and are interested in the position, please send a resume or curriculum vitae along with a cover letter to the following postal or email address:

POSTAL MAIL: Finance Manager NMPMG2022 Application
P.O. Box 502476, Saipan, MP 96950

EMAIL: vicente.babauta@gmail.com or marianassports@gmail.com

All application must be received no later than 5:00pm, July 15, 2021.

Contact Person:

Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, GOC Chairman Marco Peter
Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Joe's economy now: What to make of the June jobs report

Rationally or irrationally, presidents are credited or blamed for the economy. Barack Obama brought the country back, albeit too haltingly, from a deep recession. Donald Trump built on those gains, keeping unemployment low and the jobs machine revving until COVID-19, and his abysmal management of the public health crisis, sent trendlines and livelihoods in free fall.

Joe Biden's charge has been to control the pandemic and put the country back on sound footing, while finally addressing unmet needs and entrenched inequalities that have festered for generations.

For months, Republicans have gloated while, in the wake of Biden's American Rescue Plan, job creation has lagged and inflation has reared its head. An economy that should be reopening and resurging has been flagging, and that, they've argued, is reason against Biden's multitrillion-dollar, economy-reshaping plans to rebuild infrastructure and help families raise their kids.

The argument is odd: Arguably, a limping private sector would more powerfully make the case for increased Washington investment as Biden prescribes, while one comfortably jogging wouldn't seem to need a dramatic infusion of additional spending. But here in the U.S.A., nothing succeeds like success, which means that Biden has had to show that his plans, to date, are working to get any wind at his back as he urges additional action.

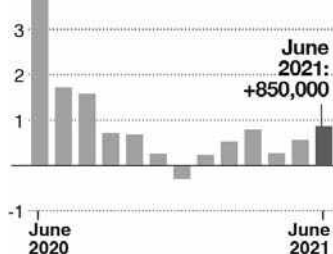
June's job report delivered the necessary jolt. The economy added 850,000 jobs, its biggest jump in 10 months, as the number of job seekers grew. Compared to February 2020, the month before COVID-19 walloped the nation, hourly wages are now up 6.6%. Inflation remains a threat but is being outpaced by rising incomes. Meantime, consumer confidence is at its highest point since before the cataclysm.

With the emergency surgery seemingly complete, the recovery can now continue. While it need not spend quite as much as he has prescribed, Washington should press ahead with much of Biden's ambitious, restorative agenda to enhance American competitiveness and strengthen family finances. This patient is off the operating table; physical therapy can begin.

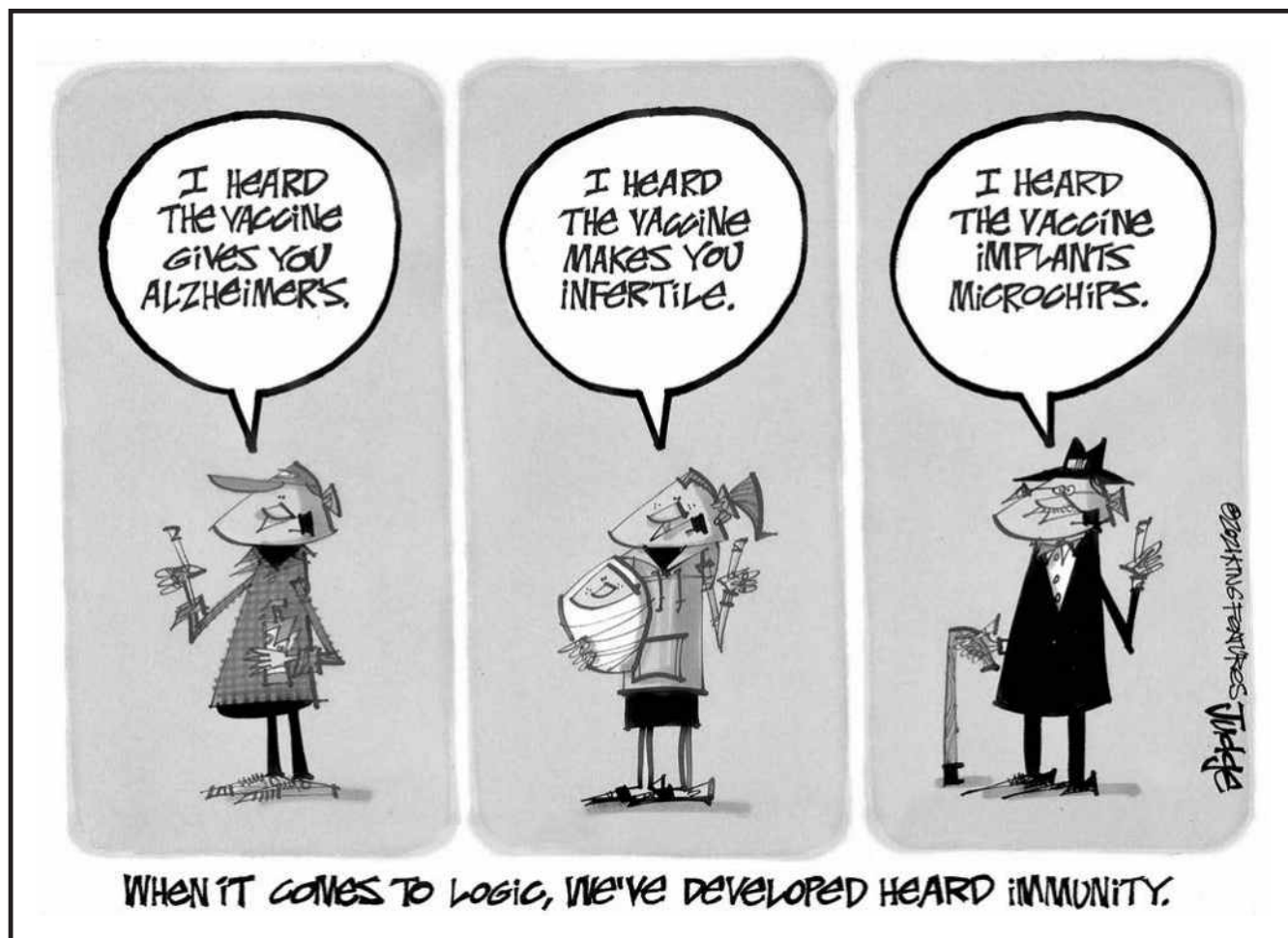
© 2021 New York Daily News

Changes in employment

Increase or decrease in jobs from previous month, seasonally adjusted, scale in millions



Graphic: TNS
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Cheat sheet: A 2014 memo explains our 2021 news

Summertime, and the livin' ain't easy.

News screens keep showin'

How people die.

We look away, 'cause we know what we're seein'.

Our pain's not just knowin'—

It's knowin' why.

Our worst nightmares are being splashed across our news screens, one after another. Unfortunately, the tragedies seem way too familiar—because today's tragic news reads like pages ripped right out of warning memos in which government experts pleaded with officials to act urgently to save us. But no, too often our elected officials did nothing, except look the other way and make another speech. And what hurts is we know why: They didn't have the guts to just say no to petty politics—and act courageously to save the people who trusted and elected them.

Now our nightmares are our breaking news: Catastrophic heat kills hundreds in the sweltering Northwest. Collapsing condo kills many; warnings were ignored. Collapsing infrastructure may be next; Congress dithers as aged bridges and tunnels deteriorate.

Click.

No, wait. We owe it to ourselves—and those who were just killed—to look for the news behind the news. To name and shame those who are at least partly to blame for today's breaking news nightmares.

We can start by checking out the warnings in the handbook of a 2014 White House Climate Change Adaption Planning Workshop, one of a series of events where regional officials heard experts' warnings and how to prevent, or at least prepare for, future disasters. I was looking at a warning map on Page 12—it shows a mostly beige America, but with Washington state, Oregon and California in a menacing dark red (because rapid temperature increases had already created new “frost-free” zones). And when I looked over at my news screen, I saw a cable news map that looked virtually identical, because record heat (115 degrees in Portland) had killed many, hundreds, in the Northwest.

As I read that 2014 expert handbook, it seemed to be explaining what we were seeing on our news screens this week. It detailed dangerous climate changes that had already happened—rising temperatures and sea levels. Then it warned us of far worse crises that were likely to happen in what seemed (in 2014) a distant era: 2021 to 2100:

“Climate change will increase the frequency and severity of many types of extreme weather. ... Extreme heat events currently result in increases in human mortality and morbidity. ... Extreme coastal storm events have caused excess human deaths and illnesses, particularly along the east coast of the United

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



States, and the Gulf Coast. Coastal infrastructure is exposed to climate change impacts from both the landward and ocean sides. ... (W)ildfire-induced loss of ecosystem integrity, property loss, human death, and illness will occur.”

Perhaps the most nightmarish news in that 2014 handbook, a project coordinated by the National Security Council staff, was a graphic on Page 9: “Past and Projected Changes in Global Sea Level Rise.” It shows a line representing global sea levels since the year 1800 (on the far left) to 2100 (on the far right). From 1800 to today, the sea level line rose only imperceptibly—just a half-foot. But from today to 2100, the sea level line skyrocketed upward at a steep angle—increasing by 6.6 feet! (But the world can greatly reduce that increase by sharply reducing its use of fossil fuels.)

In the same year regional officials read those warnings, a private citizen began his long-shot quest to capture the presidency by rejecting all of the above. On Jan. 25, 2014, Donald Trump tweeted: “Is our country still spending money on the GLOBAL WARMING HOAX?” And he repeated that “hoax” claim in tweets and at rallies.

“Obama’s talking about all of this with the global warming and ... a lot of it’s a hoax—it’s a hoax,” Trump told a Hilton Head, South Carolina, rally on Dec. 30, 2015. President Trump proudly and unilaterally pulled the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement. In February, President Joe Biden promptly and unilaterally returned America to the global agreement.

Also this week, California’s parched forests were ablaze yet again, as a lightning-sparked fire ignited forests below Mount Shasta. Farther south, the National Sequoia Forest, devastated by past wildfires, still awaits maximum climate change protection. But its local congressman, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, is all about helping Trump regain the presidency.

Across the continent, climate change’s wrath and rising seas still imperil Florida and the coastal southeast, where voters once trusted their senators to protect them. But coastal Republican senators, including Florida’s Marco Rubio and South Carolina’s Lindsey Graham, also seem to be determined to protect and elect Trump. No matter what. Unless, of course, voters gently muscle them to just say no.

3 tips for managing the transition to post-pandemic civic life

By MEG GRIFFITHS
The Fulcrum

With millions vaccinated, we have begun to imagine what's next. For some, the return to work and school will be a relief. For others, it brings a new wave of anxieties. The American Psychological Association reports that half of Americans fear returning to life together, even as they struggle with the mental health impact of isolation.

In my role at Essential Partners, I help people live and work better together by building trust and understanding across differences. Recently, friends and family members have come to me with the questions that keep them awake at night, questions like:

How will we navigate school reopening as well as the health of our children, teachers and community?

How do we recognize people's changed expectations, routines and needs at work?

How do I manage hard conversations about risk and vaccinations at my house of worship?

There are massive challenges in these questions. But there are also hopes and visions of the future. If we can talk about these questions in ways that create trust, understanding and connections, we can foster the cohesion and resilience we need to return to life together. EP recently published a free "Guide to Conversations About Education After COVID" to help school communities do just that.

Drawing from experiences in Massachusetts and around the globe, I want to offer three pieces of advice for those who are re-transitioning to a post-pandemic civic life.

1. Communicate with intention

The pandemic has revealed many dysfunctional communication cycles that existed before the virus changed all our lives,

such as the ways that parents, teachers and administrators communicate (or fail to communicate).

If we want to break those cycles as we transition to a post-pandemic life—or stop them before they have a chance to set in—we need to embrace more intentional communication norms.

It's simpler than it sounds. One way to be more intentional in the way you communicate is by asking yourself: What is my purpose in this conversation? What am I learning about this different person or view? Am I speaking to be heard and understood? Is there a question I can ask to learn more about other views?

The virus is not going away. Returning to work and school will certainly lead to more hard conversations later. We need to think of intentional communication as a core competency for our post-pandemic future.

2. Slow down and listen

In a conflict, people often rush to act. They want to solve the problem or show that they are taking responsibility. But the best response to a crisis usually begins with listening.

Making a space for people to share their hopes, concerns and experiences can help them feel heard, which opens the door to mutual trust and creative thinking. The deliberate, inclusive work of listening will set a solid foundation for collective decisions.

Moving too quickly, on the other hand, could leave people feeling excluded or ignored. That alienation can fray important relationships and produce self-sustaining cycles of conflict. The antidote is simple: Take time to reflect, listen and connect before jumping into a decision.

3. Check out your assumptions

The last year has changed us. It has made visible many things that used to be more difficult to see: what we value, what we can and cannot live without, old patterns of communication, work-

By MEG GRIFFITHS
The Fulcrum

Meg Griffiths is assistant director of programs at Essential Partners, which fosters constructive dialogue wherever conflicts are driven by differences of identities, beliefs and values.



place dynamics, and the strength of our relationships.

We may be tempted to assume that nothing will change once we return, or to assume that everything will be different. These types of assumptions lead to conflict, confusion and anxiety. If we don't articulate the changes we want—or don't want—we are much more likely to fall into dysfunctional patterns of behavior and communication.

However, those conversations can be hard to start. Here is a series of three questions to guide an intentional conversation about returning to life together:

What do you notice now in yourself, your team, your family or your organization that you didn't notice before the pandemic?

What has the pandemic revealed or reminded you about your personal, community and organizational values?

What changes do you want to hold onto from this year? What do you want to let go of?

Communicating with intention, slowing down to listen and checking out your assumptions are steps that every school, college, workplace, and faith institution can take. These three principles will support more inclusive decision-making, greater trust across differences and a smoother transition to a post-pandemic normal.

The rickety politics of the infrastructure bill

The political maneuvering about infrastructure is getting pretty strange, what with President Joe Biden first cheering a bipartisan bill, then threatening to veto it, and then taking back the veto threat in the span of two days. When the action on stage gets hard to follow, it can be helpful to review the main characters and their motivations.

The 21 bipartisan dealmakers in the Senate want to see their bill passed not just because they think it would improve the country's roads and bridges but because it would reduce the likelihood that Congress will take two other steps: passing a Democratic bill that spends additional trillions on child care and raises taxes, and weakening the filibuster.

Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer had planned to spend June building the case against the filibuster, as the New York Times reported. He would advance one piece of appealing-sounding legislation after another — especially a bill that would supposedly "protect voting rights" — and then blame their demise on the excessive use of the tactic.

The infrastructure deal foiled this plan. The Senate ended its June work with a demonstration that a significant number of Republicans are willing to legislate, not just obstruct, and that the chamber can work without having to change its rules.

Progressives and most Senate Democrats, meanwhile, worry that the moderate Democrats in the bipartisan group will point to any success on the infrastructure bill as a reason to pare down or walk away from the second spending bill that Senator Bernie Sanders, the Budget Committee chairman, is preparing.

One theory for Biden's behavior, based on both news reports and some discussions with Senate aides, is that the White House was taken by surprise when the bipartisan group reached a deal, felt obliged to endorse it, and then got scorched by progressives. To appease them, he blurted out that he would not sign the bipartisan bill without signing the second one "in tandem." But that infuriated the moderate Democrats, so he had to backtrack.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is still keeping the pressure on the moderates, though, saying she will not allow the House to vote on the bipartisan bill until the Senate has passed the partisan one. It's a strategy that will require stubbornness.

It will take weeks to convert the bipartisan agreement into legislative language. Drawing up Sanders's bill and getting it through procedural hurdles will take months. Democrats do not yet agree even on the price tag: He has floated \$6 trillion, while Senator Joe Manchin has talked about \$2 trillion. Even in today's Washington, that's a big difference.

Most congressional Republicans are watching the Democratic infighting from the sidelines. They oppose both spending bills.

They think we have been spending quite enough money over the last two years as it is—COVID legislation alone has added more than \$5 trillion to the federal debt—and also want to deny Biden legislative victories. They don't believe our infrastructure is crumbling, and they are skeptical that federal infrastructure spending will go where investments would do the most good.

They are right about that, by the way. It's true that the Ameri-

By RAMESH PONNURU
Bloomberg View

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg View columnist. He is a senior editor at National Review, visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and contributor to CBS News.



can Society of Civil Engineers says that we are in dire need of more spending on infrastructure. If there's a National Society of Barbers, it probably thinks we all need more haircuts. And Congress is not exactly laser-focused on using an infrastructure bill to maximize the country's productivity.

Getting a win for Biden, stopping him from getting one, influencing the debate over the filibuster: These are the type of considerations that are on the top of legislators' minds. Unsurprisingly, then, much of the negotiation has turned on arbitrary spending levels and not, say, on which projects deserve funding and which do not.

Polling suggests that the public likes the idea of infrastructure spending but doesn't see it as a high priority. Democrats decided to make it a top issue, and now they are running the risk that by holding out for everything they will get nothing.

If the bipartisan infrastructure deal fails, it won't be because the Senate is dysfunctional. It will be because the Democratic Party is.

VIRTUE AND VICE VARIATIONS Extremist versus Moderation Food Situations

"Avoid extreams*; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve."

—B. Franklin

Between Excess and Elimination

Remember the children's rhyme about Jack Sprat a moderation lesson on excess and elimination one of them was very skinny the other real fat between the couple they practiced moderation sometimes we all eat too much of foods we like and often enough we get thick round the middle never knowing when the heart attack will strike self control helps to solve that age old riddle grass gives you munchies? drink too much booze? have one joint, two beers or two glasses of wine don't 'bogart' that joint friend, you'll never lose stop beer belly bloat and you'll be doing just fine that is a brief scan of this sonnets simple schism

somewhere between moderation and extremism.

*Benjamin Franklin's spelling of "extreme."

Moderation Menu/Fast Food Venue

"Extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. And moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

—Sen. Barry Goldwater (1909 -1988).

Food adoration, amplification of truth self-starvation and over-simplification lying about drugs, liquor libation in youth self-flagellation, excessive masturbation local menu, gobbling fat fried temptation guilt associations, addictive situations solving deep fried food evasion equations gorging anticipation, increased salivation yoyo dieting brings weight fluctuation

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

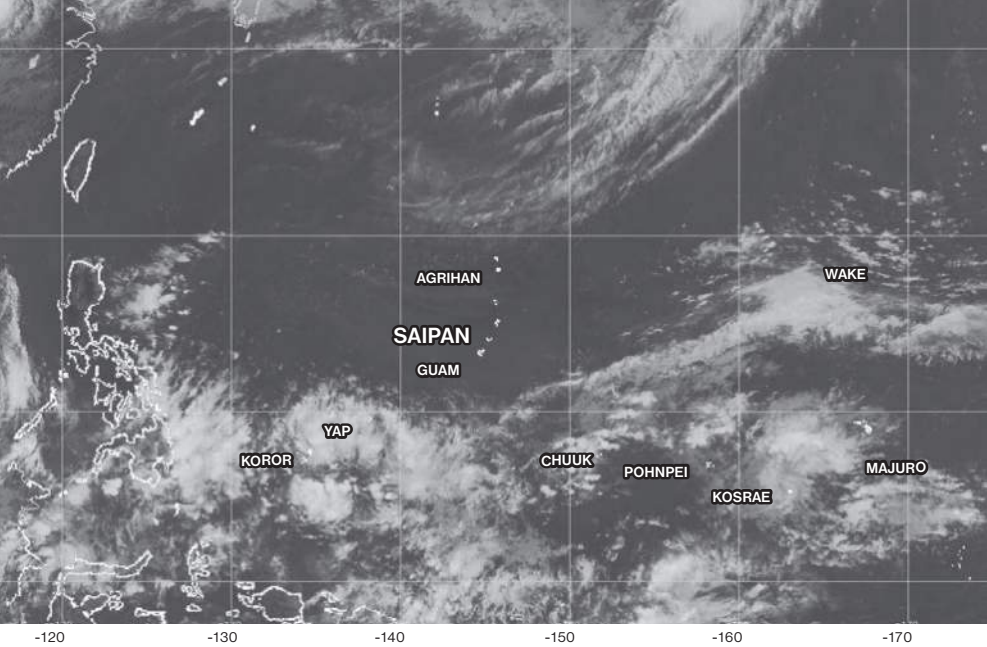
Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



some try losing weight by food deprivation some suck fat out by liposuction operation and miss benefits of dance exercise gyration you pick: long life practice of moderation or extremist paths to fat frustration and negation.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds near 10 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:33 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East winds and isolated showers prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:02 AM	5:25 PM	-
Friday	4:51 AM	6:17 PM	-
Saturday	5:43 AM	7:09 PM	-
Sunday	6:37 AM	7:59 PM	-
Monday	7:32 AM	8:45 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Beijing	Thunderstorms	93° / 75°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	52° / 41°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 68°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	84° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	97° / 73°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 75°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 53°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	99° / 78°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:34 AM	Low Tide	1.44	
5:22 AM	High Tide	1.90	
12:56 PM	Low Tide	0.02	
8:18 PM	High Tide	1.91	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam				
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM							
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Go 'treasure' hunting at Trove

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A store that sells vintage, gently used, and pre-loved items just opened besides Kylie's Bakeshop in Gualo Rai.

Owner Carlene Atalig Mitchell said she opened Trove just this past Monday, July 5, to help the community make ends meet during the downtime brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is the best time to open this kind of shop because people are trying to find ways to make their dollar stretch and, with our pricing model, they can save a lot by purchasing from us and use their savings for other necessities," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

While Trove retails second-hand products, Mitchell as-



Owner Carlene Atalig Mitchell said vintage and pre-loved stores like Trove are all the rage in the U.S. mainland.

sured their top-rate quality and invites everyone to shop for that one-of-a-kind item. "Trove is a

collection of treasures, valuable, and delightful things. Our store is just that. You never know

what treasure you will find with us. We offer new, gently used (you'd think they are new), and vintage. We thrive on rescuing goods and giving it another chance to be loved. We love recycling, repurposing, and reusing items," she said.

Vintage and pre-loved stores like Trove recently became popular in the United States and Mitchell hopes the CNMI would be the next frontier. "This is such a trend in the mainland and I am so proud to bring the thrifting experience here with quality goods and clothing. What's been the bestseller so far? Vintage! I didn't bring a huge selection, as I wasn't sure what the response would be to vintage. My curators in the U.S. mainland have since se-

cured an amazing inventory of vintage...coming soon!"

Besides the donations Mitchell receives from friends and associates in the U.S. mainland, the thrift store also employs curators that purchase from warehouses of surplus donated items. "The only difference is we handpick the A+ branded and trending items," she said.

Trove is also a business that extends help to charities, with 10% of their sales immediately set aside to donate to Miracly Hands Charity and Karidat

Social Services.

Aside from helping these non-profits, Mitchell says her family also gets to benefit. "We believe in youth sports and the good it has done to my six boys. Yes, I have six boys and so we are also working on helping out a local basketball team. Basically, the Trove is here to offer thrifted goods and help the community," she said.

Trove is open Tuesday to Saturday, from 11am to 6pm. For more information, call 284-0611.

Bank of Guam's TASI Bank is rebranded to focus on commercial banking in Calif.

HAGATÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced yesterday the rebrand of its San Francisco branch as TASI Bank, a division of Bank of Guam, with a new logo, website, and rebranded digital banking solutions.

Seeing an opportunity to distinguish itself from other Bay Area lending institutions, TASI Bank will center its financial services around a wide range of commercial opportunities

throughout various business sectors, including commercial real estate, franchised gasoline service stations, hospitality (hotels and motels), as well as independent retail and wholesale firms.

John David "Dave" Joves, Bank of Guam's senior vice president, California regional manager, has been named division president for TASI Bank.

"This is an exciting day for all of us. Over the years, we've achieved exponential growth, successfully building the branch to more than \$450 million in total assets while serving a diverse community of small and medium-sized businesses throughout Northern California," said Joves. "Even our rebranding shows how deeply connected we remain to our Guam roots. As a matter of fact, 'Tasi' means ocean in the CHamoru language. Our logo, a wave, visually connects cultures spanning 6,000 miles from Guam to San Francisco, honoring the momentum and strength of the ocean, just like the financial



Joves



Cook

strength of the bank." Joves will continue to lead the California region, alongside a staff of 20 employees. The branch will continue to serve as trusted advisers, now with a focus on business banking serving from the heart of San Francisco's financial district as it has since 1983.

Serving strong for 38 years, TASI Bank has been coined the "oldest new bank" in the San Francisco Bay Area as it continues Bank of Guam's legacy of serving as trusted advisers to its commercial customers. With revenue growth averaging 14.4% for the past 10 years, TASI Bank has contributed to BOG's \$2.8 billion total assets, demonstrating the bank's ability to compete nationally beyond their markets in the Pacific.

Bank of Guam president and CEO Joaquin Cook said this development "is another milestone in our 'The Start of Something New' campaign. As one of our long-term strategic goals, TASI Bank is also a significant reflection of Bank of Guam's growth and expansion to compete beyond our existing markets."

Bank of Guam also sees TASI Bank as a means to further modernize the bank's financial offerings and digital accessibility, while helping a diverse array of commercial customers. This is consistent with Bank of Guam's longstanding mission to serve the underserved.

As a division of Bank of Guam, a minority deposi-

tory institution, TASI Bank can offer expertise to groups that are frequently overlooked by institutions where people of color do not hold representative control. According to FDIC, MDI institutions such as Bank of Guam originate a greater share of Small Business Administration guaranteed small business loans for such borrowers, compared to non-MDI financial institutions.

While TASI Bank's business strategy will focus primarily on business to business financial services, it remains commit-



ted to the same values as "The People's Bank."

"TASI Bank remains a valuable member of the BOG Familia, with its philosophy of respect, fairness, generosity and integrity," said Cook.

The rebrand of TASI Bank won't impact all BOG account holders. Beginning yesterday, California account holders will be introduced to a name, website and rebranded online and mobile platforms. To log into their online account, they can now visit TASI.bank using their existing login credentials. (PR)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BOARD OF PAROLE
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**TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that a **Parole Hearing** is scheduled for **July 13 -15, 2021 (Tuesday - Thursday)**, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the **Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Correctional Facility**, located at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. The Agenda is as follows:

I. Preliminary Matters		
A. Call to order		
B. Roll Call		
C. Presence of Quorum		
II. Consent Items		
A. Adoption of Agenda		
III. Parole Hearing	BOP No.:	Criminal Case No.:
1. Huang Rui Jun	21-010	19-0015
2. Liao Guo Feng	21-011	19-0040B
3. Xiao Ping Wang	21-012	19-0017
4. Benjamin Lee	21-RA-013	16-0208 / 17-0112
5. Ronnie San Nicolas	21-RA-014	19-0002 / 17-0143
6. Felisha Ann Basa	21-015	16-0171EB / 16-0092B
7. Julian Sablan	21-016	18-0091 / 18-0092
8. Paul Anthony Lizama	21-017	19-0067D / 17-0167
9. Benigno Sablan	21-018	16-0208 / 19-0006
10. Juan Tydingco	21-019	16-0182 / 20-0025
11. Artemia Gabayero	21-020	19-0041C
12. Daniel N. Quitigua	21-021	19-0121
IV. Adjournment		

If deemed necessary, members of the Board of Parole may elect to vote to meet in Executive Session to discuss any of the items listed above.

If you have any question or need additional information, please contact the Board of Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300.

/s/
Ramon B. Camacho
BOP Chairman

July 6, 2021
Date

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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**TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that a **Clemency Hearing** is scheduled for **July 16, 2021, Friday, at 9:00 a.m.**, at the **Honorable Vicente T. Seman Building, Department of Corrections Facility, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950**. Followed by **Pardon Hearing** at 1:00 p.m. at the **CNMI Board of Parole Office Conference Room, Building 1216, Capital Hill, Saipan MP 96950**. The following items are included in the agenda:

Clemency / Pardon Hearing Agenda

I. Preliminary Matters	
A. Call to order	
B. Roll Call	
C. Presence of Quorum	
II. Consent Items	
A. Adoption of Agenda	
III. Clemency Hearing	Criminal Case No.:
1. Price Shoiter	15-0208 / 03-076
IV. Pardon Hearing	Criminal Case No.:
1. Isidro Reyes Lizama	82-0095 / 91-0106 / 94-0102
V. Adjournment	

For any additional information about the meeting, please call the Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

July 7, 2021
Date

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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**TO ALL MEDIA SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

MESSAGE: The Honorable Ralph Dlg. Torres, Governor and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Governor, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", hereby give Official Notice that an **Executive Meeting** is scheduled for **July 16, 2021, Friday, at 2:30 p.m.**, at the **CNMI Board of Parole Office Conference Room, Building 1216 Capital Hill, Saipan MP 96950**.

The following items are included in the agenda:

Executive Meeting Agenda

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to order
B. Roll Call
C. Presence of Quorum
II. Consent Items
A. Adoption of Agenda
B. Adoption of Meeting Minutes
a) Parole Hearing Minutes - January 06 - 07, 2021
b) Executive Meeting Minutes - January 08, 2021
III. Old Business
A. To review and discuss Title 115 Parole Board Regulation
IV. Miscellaneous
A. Schedule of next Parole Hearing
B. Schedule of next Executive Meeting
V. Adjournment

For any additional information about the meeting, please call the Parole Office at telephone numbers 664-3300.

/s/ Ramon B. Camacho
Chairman, Board of Parole

July 7, 2021
Date

Nation

Chicago police: 100 shot, 18 homicides over holiday weekend

CHICAGO (AP)—One hundred people—including two police officers—were shot in Chicago over the long Fourth of July weekend, including 18 homicides, the city's police department said Tuesday.

Among those injured were at least a dozen children. None of them had died as of Tuesday morning, but at least three

of the minors were in critical condition.

The bloodshed was comparable to the long Fourth of July weekend last year, when 17 people were fatally shot and 70 more were wounded. A 7-year-old girl and 14-year-old boy were among the dead that weekend.

Police Superintendent Da-

vid Brown put much of the blame for the gun violence on a court system that allows people charged with violent crimes, including murder, to be released from custody on electronic monitoring.

"The courts releasing people charged with murder back into the communities.... is creating an unsafe environment

for all of us," Brown said at a news conference.

Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans took issue with Brown's criticism of electronic monitoring, saying in a statement Tuesday that it is "based on the constitutional principle should not be imprisonment before they are tried, unless they pose a significant

danger to the community."

Evans did not mention Brown by name or respond directly to his comments about a 7-year-old girl who was fatally shot in April, allegedly by a man who was on electronic monitoring in another case. But he made it clear that such comments were unfair.

"Looking at individual tragic cases in isolation may contribute to the speculation that releasing individuals before trial rather than incarcerating them -- whether by placing them on Electronic Monitoring (EM) or other forms of supervision -- means an increase in crime," he said. "But speculation based on isolated cases is not the same as reality based on a complete picture, and research has shown that bail reform has not led to an increase in crime."

Brown has been under pressure for the violent crime that rose dramatically in 2020

compared to the year before and shows little sign of slowing down thus far this year. Even before the holiday weekend, the department said in the first six months of the year there were 332 homicides compared to 338 for the same period last year and that there were more shooting victims and shooting incidents than during the same six-month period last year.

He picked up Tuesday where he left off last week when he was called before the City Council to explain his crime fighting strategies ahead of what is traditionally one of the most violent weekends of the year.

As he did in his City Council appearance, Brown defended his department, including in his briefing to reporters that his officers had recovered 244 illegal guns over the long weekend.

"Strategy-wise, we did our part," he said.



HURRICANE WATCH

Pedestrians dash across the intersection of Greene and Duval streets as heavy winds and rain associated with Tropical Storm Elsa passes Key West, Fla., on Tuesday, July 6, 2021. The weather was getting worse in southern Florida on Tuesday morning as Tropical Storm Elsa began lashing the Florida Keys, complicating the search for survivors in the condo collapse and prompting a hurricane watch for the peninsula's upper Gulf Coast.

Searchers at collapse site 'not seeing anything positive'

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP)—Officials overseeing the search at the site of the Florida condominium collapse sounded increasingly somber Tuesday about the prospects for finding anyone alive, saying they have detected no new signs of life in the rubble as the death toll climbed to 36.

Crews in yellow helmets and blue jumpsuits searched the debris for a 13th day while wind and rain from the outer bands of Tropical Storm Elsa complicated their efforts. Video released by the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Department showed workers lugging pickaxes and power saws through piles of concrete rubble barbed with snapped steel rebar. Other searchers could be seen digging with gloved hands through pulverized concrete and dumping shovels of debris into large buckets.

Search-and-rescue workers continued to look for open spaces where people might be found alive nearly two weeks after the disaster struck at the Champlain Towers South building in Surfside.

"We're actively searching as aggressively as we can," Miami-Dade County Fire

Chief Alan Cominsky said at a news conference. But he added: "Unfortunately, we are not seeing anything positive. The key things—void spaces, living spaces—we're not seeing anything like that."

Reporters got their closest look at the site Tuesday, though it was limited to the portion of the building that demolition workers tore down Sunday after the initial collapse left it standing but dangerously unstable. A pile of shattered concrete and twisted steel stood about 30 feet (9 meters) tall, topped by a couple of air conditioning units, and spanned roughly half the length of a football field. A pair of backhoes pulled rubble off the pile, which blocked any view of the search effort.

While officials still call the efforts a search-and-rescue operation, Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said families of those still missing are preparing for news of "tragic loss." She said President Joe Biden, who visited the area last week, called Tuesday to offer his continued support.

"I think everybody will be

ready when it's time to move to the next phase," said Levine Cava, who stressed that crews would use the same care as they go through the rubble even after their focus shifts from searching for survivors to recovering the dead.

"Really, you will not see a difference," she said. "We will carefully search for bodies and belongings, and to catalog and respectfully deal with any remains that we find."

No one has been rescued alive since the first hours after the collapse, which struck early on June 24, when many of the building's residents were asleep.

Officials announced Tuesday that teams had recovered eight additional bodies—the highest one-day total since the collapse. More than 100 people remain unaccounted for.

Severe weather from Elsa threatened to hinder search efforts. Lightning forced rescuers to pause their work for two hours early Tuesday, Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah said. And stiff winds of 20 mph (32 kph), with stronger gusts, hampered efforts to move heavy debris with cranes, officials said.

However, the storm's heaviest winds and rain were expected to bypass Surfside and neighboring Miami as Elsa strengthened before making landfall somewhere between Tampa Bay and Florida's Big Bend on a path across northern Florida.

"Active search and rescue continued throughout the night, and these teams continue through extremely adverse and challenging conditions," Levine Cava said. "Through the rain and through the wind, they have continued searching."

Crews have removed 124 tons (112 metric tonnes) of debris from the site, Cominsky said. The debris was being sorted and stored in a warehouse as potential evidence in the investigation into why the building collapsed, officials said.

Workers have been freed to search a broader area since the weekend demolition of the unstable remaining portion of the condo building. Officials said that gave rescuers access to spaces that were previously closed off, including bedrooms where people were believed to be sleeping at the time of the disaster.

ACROSS THE NATION

Delaware prosecutor: Suspected serial killer indicted

DOVER, Del. (AP)—A suspected serial killer accused in the deaths of several people in Delaware and Pennsylvania has been indicted on 41 felony charges, including two murders, authorities said Tuesday. Delaware prosecutors allege that Keith Gibson, 39, killed two people and injured four others in Delaware during a weeklong crime spree earlier this year. Gibson is also a suspect in several murders committed in Pennsylvania this year, including the killing of his mother and the robbery and slaying of a north Philadelphia doughnut shop manager. "This indictment lays out one of the most vicious, staggering crime sprees I've seen in my career," Delaware Attorney General Kathleen Jennings said in a statement issued Tuesday. "It is even more disturbing to think, based on what investigators have revealed in Pennsylvania, that this may just be the tip of the iceberg." Gibson, who was previously convicted of manslaughter and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, was released from prison on Dec. 20 after a 13-year sentence. Authorities said Gibson violated the terms of his probation and was held in custody briefly before being released again on April 27.

California to pay victims of forced, coerced sterilizations

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California is poised to approve reparations up to \$25,000 to victims who were among the thousands of people—some as young as 13—who decades ago were sterilized because state officials deemed them unfit to have children. The payments, part of the state's new \$262.6 billion operating budget that is awaiting Gov. Gavin Newsom's signature, will make California at least the third state after Virginia and North Carolina to pay victims of the so-called eugenics movement that peaked in the 1930s. Proponents believed sterilizing people with mental illnesses, physical disabilities and other so-called undesirable traits would improve the human race. California's proposal is unique because it would apply to more than just victims of the eugenics law that was repealed in 1979. The state also will pay female inmates who were coerced to get sterilized, a disgrace first exposed by the Center for Investigative Reporting in 2013. A subsequent audit found the state sterilized 144 women between 2005 and 2013 with little or no evidence that officials counseled them or offered alternative treatment. While all of the women signed consent forms, in 39 cases state officials did not do everything that was legally required to obtain their permission.

Asia

AMID SLOW VACCINATIONS S. Korea virus cases jump 1,200

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea is seeing a steep rise in coronavirus infections unseen since the worst of its outbreak last winter as it slips into another surge while most of its people are still unvaccinated.

The 1,212 new cases confirmed by Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Wednesday came close to matching its highest daily increase of the pandemic—1,240 cases reported on Christmas Day.

Health experts say the government sent the wrong message to the public by pushing for a premature easing of social distancing despite a steadily rising caseload.

Prime Minister Kim Bo-kyum during a virus meeting said officials will consider tougher social distancing rules if transmissions continue to grow over the next two or three days. President Moon Jae-in in a separate meeting instructed officials to swiftly deploy police officers, troops and civil servants to help with contact tracing efforts.

“This is an emergency situation where we need to invest all our abilities to respond to COVID-19,” Kim said, while pleading for public vigilance.

The government had planned to raise the cap on private social gatherings from four to six people, extend indoor dining at restaurants by two hours until midnight and allowing vaccinated people to be mask-less outdoors starting this month. But officials in Seoul and nearby areas held off the new rules as infections rose.

Most of the new cases were from the Seoul metropolitan area, home to half of the country’s 51 million people, but infections were also occurring in other major cities and regions, including Busan, Daejeon, Daegu and the southern resort island of Jeju. There are concerns the virus could spread further due to increased travel during the summer holiday season.

The country’s caseload is now at 162,753 after adding around 5,800 cases this month alone. The death toll is at 2,033.

The nation’s vaccination campaign has yet to gather speed, with only 30% of its population receiving first doses as of Wednesday. Just around 10% of the population have received their second doses.

The country has so far injected hospital and essential workers, people in long-term care settings, troops and adults in their 60s or older, but inconsistent supplies have left the vast majority of younger adults unvaccinated.

South Korea on Wednesday received 700,000 Pfizer shots from Israel in exchange for a future shipment of vaccines to Israel from September to November, when officials hope South Korea’s shortage will have eased.

Jung Eun-kyeong, KDCA’s director, said the doses will go to the capital Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi province where the virus is spreading fastest. She expressed hope the shots will help speed up vaccinations of nursery or daycare workers and kindergarten and elementary school teachers, which authorities plan to start this month.

sedition charge, saying it did not follow established judicial procedures. Suu Kyi is under detention and is being tried on several charges, including an allegation that she illegally imported walkie-talkies for her bodyguards’ use and used the radios without a license, and violated COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on two occasions during the 2020 election campaign. She went on trial on June 14 in a closed court in the capital, Naypyitaw, in proceedings that the military-installed government is widely seen as using to discredit her and consolidate its control. The military took power in February after ousting Suu Kyi’s elected government and arresting her and other top officials in her government and National League for Democracy party.

Japan to ship another 1.1M AstraZeneca doses to Taiwan

TOKYO (AP)—Japan is set to send another 1.1 million donated AstraZeneca doses to Taiwan this week to help the self-governing island fight its worst COVID-19 outbreak amid a struggle to get vaccines. Taiwan, which had only a handful of deaths before the latest outbreak, has seen

its death toll spike to more than 700. The number of daily new cases has eased, with authorities reporting 29 on Tuesday and 17 more deaths. Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Tuesday the AstraZeneca vaccine is set for shipment on Thursday—Japan’s second shipment to Taiwan a month after it donated 1.24 million AstraZeneca doses.

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama celebrates 86th birthday

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama celebrated his 86th birthday on Tuesday, thanking his supporters and expressing his appreciation to India, where he has lived since he fled his homeland in 1959. “I want to express my deep appreciation of all my friends who have really shown me love, respect and trust,” the Dalai Lama said in a video message. He reiterated his mission to serve humanity and urged supporters to be compassionate. “Since I became a refugee and now settled in India, I have taken full advantage of India’s freedom and religious harmony,” he said.

World

28 feared dead in airplane crash in Russia’s Far East

MOSCOW (AP)—A plane carrying 28 people crashed Tuesday, apparently as it came in for a landing in bad weather in Russia’s Far East, and everyone aboard was feared dead.

Wreckage from the An-26 was found on a coastal cliffside and in the sea near the airport in the town of Palana, according to officials. The plane was on approach for a landing in fog and clouds when it missed a scheduled communication and disappeared from radar, officials from the Kamchatka region said.

The plane “practically crashed into a sea cliff,” which wasn’t supposed to be in its landing trajectory, according to Sergei Gorb, deputy director of the company that owns the aircraft, Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise.

The plane was in operation since 1982, Russian state news agency Tass reported. Alexei Khabarov, director of Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise, told the Interfax news agency that the aircraft was technically sound before taking off from the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

According to Russian me-



dia reports, none of the six crew members or 22 passengers on board survived. The head of the local government in Palana, Olga Mokhireva, was among the passengers, spokespeople of the Kamchatka government said.

However, no bodies were found yet, and there was no official confirmation of the reports.

Russia’s state aviation agency, Rosaviatsiya, said that parts of the plane were found about 3 miles (5 kilometers) from the airport’s runway. Part of the fuselage was found on the side of a mountain, Russia’s Pacific Fleet told news agencies, and another part was floating in the Okhotsk Sea.

A criminal investigation

was opened, as is typical.

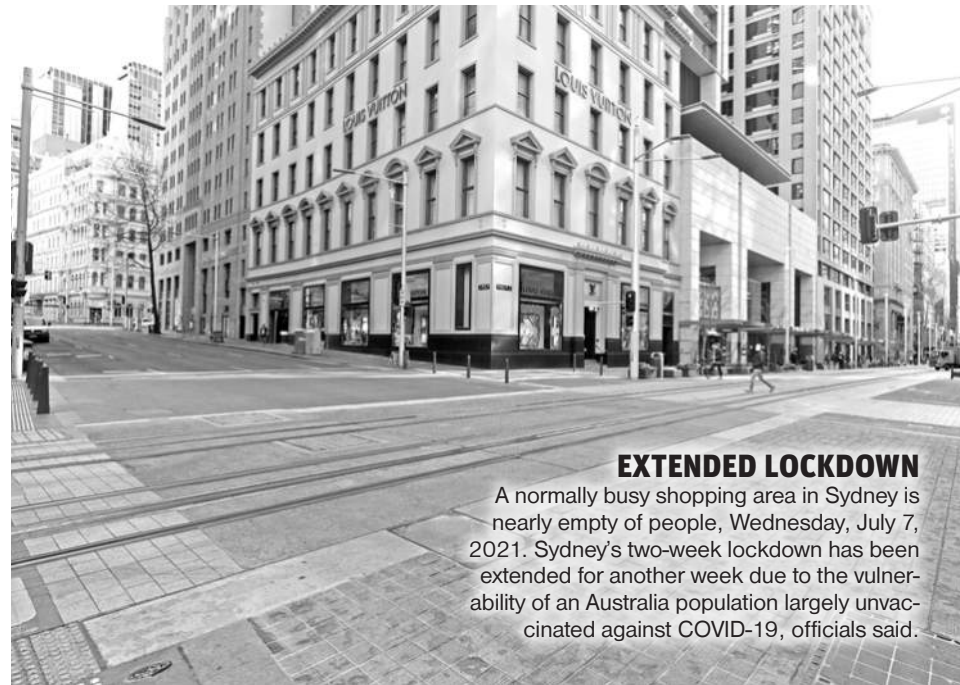
A search-and-rescue mission was underway in the mountainous area, but the work was suspended after night fell, the governor of Kamchatka, Vladimir Solodov, said.

“The site itself is difficult to access, a helicopter can’t land there,” Solodov said in video posted on the regional government’s website. “Because of adverse weather conditions, high waves, the rescue operation had to be temporarily suspended. It will resume tomorrow morning.”

Authorities plan to deploy professional divers and rescuers trained for working in mountainous terrain.

Solodov added that a group of government officials including Transport Minister Vitaly Savelyev will head to Palana on Wednesday.

In 2012, an An-28 plane belonging to Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise crashed into a mountain while flying the same route as Tuesday’s flight. A total of 14 people were on board and 10 of them were killed. Both pilots, who were among the dead, were found to have alcohol in their blood, Tass reported.



EXTENDED LOCKDOWN

A normally busy shopping area in Sydney is nearly empty of people, Wednesday, July 7, 2021. Sydney’s two-week lockdown has been extended for another week due to the vulnerability of an Australia population largely unvaccinated against COVID-19, officials said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabwe returns to strict lockdown to fight virus surge

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe has returned to strict lockdown measures to combat a resurgence of COVID-19 amid vaccine shortages, the country’s information minister announced Tuesday. Infections have dra-

matically increased in recent weeks despite a night curfew, reduced business hours, localized lockdowns in hotspot areas, and a ban on inter-city travel. The virus has spread to rural areas which have sparse health facilities. To try to contain the spread, most people must stay at home, similar to restrictions on movement

adopted in March last year when towns and cities became almost deserted, Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa announced after a Cabinet meeting Tuesday. People will now need letters from employers to justify why they must venture out of their neighborhoods “with immediate effect,” said Mutsvangwa.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thailand seizes 315 kilograms of heroin bound for Australia

BANGKOK (AP)—Customs officials in Thailand made their biggest seizure of heroin this year, about 315 kilograms (700 pounds) worth up to 944 million baht (\$29 million), bringing the total confiscated so far this year to 2 tons, officials said Tuesday. They did not say where the drugs originated, but the seizure comes amid concerns that production may surge in neighboring Myanmar, the region’s main supplier of illicit drugs, because of severe instability following the military’s ouster of an elected government in February. Customs Department Director-General Patchara Anuntasilpa said 134 shrink-wrapped packets of heroin, each weighing about 2.4 kilograms (5.3 pounds), had been concealed in a shipment of acrylic paint headed for Australia.

Suu Kyi’s lawyers fight over evidence in Myanmar trial

BANGKOK (AP)—Lawyers for ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi argued strongly Tuesday against the introduction of evidence by prosecutors against her on a

Environment

\$1 fee eyed to discourage use of single-use plastic bags

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

It takes a thousand years for a single plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Yet most people don't just use one plastic bag a day. A trillion plastic bags are estimated to be used worldwide every year. That is over a million bags per minute.

And most of these end up as trash, not only on land but in the ocean. The United Nations Environment Programme estimated in 2006 that about 46,000 of plastic are found floating in every square mile of ocean. That was 15 years ago. The trend has only worsened.

Worse, these bags do not really fully break down but pho-

todegrades to become microplastics—plastic pieces smaller than 2.5cm that are washed up on shores, or are accidentally ingested by fish, which we then eat. Think about it.

To discourage the use of plastic bags in the CNMI, a \$1 plastic bag fee is again being proposed at the Legislature through House Bill 22-56 (Eco-Friendly Act of 2021), which Rep. Sheila Babauta has introduced. This is an attempt to resuscitate the “Going Green Act” bill filed in 2015 by then representative and now Sen. Vinnie Sablan.

“Single-use plastics pose a serious threat to our environment. We want to discourage the use of single-use plastic

bags and encourage our community to reuse bags—any bag,” Babauta said, adding that the bill aims to curb consumer behavior by implementing a \$1 fee for single-use plastic bags. “According to research, a fee is just as effective as a ban, and provides for consumer flexibility. So shoppers will still be able to purchase single-use plastic bags, if the need arises; it will just cost \$1.”

By enacting the legislation, the CNMI will be joining other Pacific nations, and fellow members in the Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures that adopted the 2008 resolution that supports efforts to decrease the consumption, and the economic



Saipan Southern High School students use sand sifters to check for microplastics at a beach cleanup at Laolao Bay in early June to celebrate the CNMI Ocean Month. Last year, on a single day during the International Coastal Cleanup, over 25,000 microplastics (plastic pieces less than 2.5cm) were collected on island. The Division of Coastal Resource Management reported that of all the tiny wastes collected by the ICC volunteers, 705 are tiny foam pieces, 906 are tiny glass pieces, and a whopping 26,509 are microplastics.

IVA MAURIN

NANBO incentivizes homeowners to Go Solar in its new sustainability campaign



Nanbo Insurance Underwriters recently launched its Go Solar promotion to encourage homeowners to install solar panels.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Nanbo Insurance Underwriters recently launched its Go Solar promotion, another new Go Green initiative that rewards customers for making sustainable lifestyle choices. The Go Solar promotion encourages homeowners to harness the power of the sun by installing solar panels as an alternative, more sustainable and long-term energy solution.

NANBO's Go Solar promotion rewards customers who install new solar panels at their homes by paying for one month's worth of the homeowner's power bill, up to \$350, while offering some of the best homeowners coverages on the island.

NANBO has been providing green options for its customers since 2019 to promote a greener and cleaner environment for Guam's residents. Other incentives include NANBO's Go Green Hybrid promotion that rewards customers who insure their electric hybrid vehicles with a voucher of up to \$350 that will

» Company to pay up to \$350 of customers' energy bills with new solar installs

apply toward their energy bill.

NANBO continues to look for opportunities to support our customers as they make more sustainable lifestyle choices that also help them save on their home and auto policies,” said NANBO president Brent Butler. “Everyone wins when we work together to care for the needs of our customers and our environment. Our customers enjoy the rewards and feel good about the value they receive. We hope to encourage more homeowners to consider solar energy and other energy-efficient choices that can make a collective impact.”

NANBO has been providing Guam's residents with reliable and affordable homeowners, auto, motorcycle,

and business insurance for 53 years. The company continues to introduce policies that promote solutions to reduce customers' carbon footprint. Details about this special offer can be found on NANBO's website (nanbo.com). This offer is open to new and existing customers who install or retrofit their homes with solar panels.

Butler added, “We are proud to be able to offer the Go Solar promotion to our customers. Residents are looking for ways to minimize their expenses and waste. If there are more benefits for homeowners to consider solar energy, more residents may consider this sensible option. As a tropical island with year-round sunshine, it makes great sense to consider solar energy to help reduce our electricity costs and reliance.”

Homeowners can reach NANBO's customer service team to learn more about the Go Solar offer by calling 671-477-9754 or by visiting nanbo.com. (PR)

and environmental impacts associated with the use of plastic checkout bags.

“We must demonstrate our commitment toward climate justice and caring for our environment and honor the movement with our brothers and sisters in the Pacific Islands,” Babauta said.

The bill also highlighted the duty to preserve the island's resources for the benefit of all, and that issues associated with the impact of plastic bags must no longer be ignored.

‘Let's talk about change’

According to the bill, the Legislature acknowledges that changes mandated “may be considered inconvenient and expensive, but the alternative of doing nothing, of standing idly by, will cost even more.”

The bill promotes behavioral change, where people, instead of having to pay a dollar per checkout plastic bag, could just use their own reusable



Plastic bag along the shores of Saipan.

IVA MAURIN

bags (bags other than plastic) when going to the stores.

It does not include plastic bags used solely to contain fresh meat and meat products, including beef, pork, poultry, and seafood.

The bill also proposes that businesses, or the sellers, will have to provide a monthly report, and monthly deposit collected fees, to the Department of Finance stating the amount collected and actual cost incurred related to the plastic bag fee. The Department of Finance will forward the reports to the Department of Commerce, who will serve as the enforcement

arm of this plastic bag fee.

Sellers who fail to assess the usage fee to customers will be fined \$1,000 for the first violation, \$1,500 for second violation, and \$2,500 for any subsequent violations.

“Our beautiful natural resources are what contributes to our quality of life, economy, peace of mind, livelihood, and all things that matter. My hope is that we become aware of our consumption, our usage, and our impact on the environment. It is our responsibility to ensure we are good stewards of the environment, and set an example for the next generation,” Babauta said.

Acknowledging how hard changes can be, Babauta said that all she is asking is to open the door for discussions. “Change is scary. It is hard. I understand. All I ask is that we talk about it. Gather facts for your conversation. And think about the future of our Commonwealth.”

Researchers to conduct manta ray tagging this month

A research team from University of Guam Sea Grant, the Micronesian Conservation Coalition, Conservation International, Manta Trust, and the Department of Agriculture has started a manta ray tagging project in hopes of collecting data on the movements, habitats, and social patterns of the local manta ray population.

“We recently had the first cross-island migration of a manta ray in the region,” said lead researcher Julie Hartup of the Micronesian Conservation Coalition. “It is really ex-

citing to be able to track more of that kind of movement.”

Researchers will be attaching digital tracking tags to manta rays over the course of July. The public is encouraged to be respectful of known manta sites during this time and to stay distanced from any manta rays that may be tagged.

“People may think that the tags are fishing line or something else, but they are very important to the research we are doing, and we ask that community members please refrain from touching them,”

Hartup said.

The tags will be removed from the manta rays at the conclusion of the study.

This research project is funded in part by UOG Sea Grant. UOG Sea Grant is one of 34 programs within the National Sea Grant College Program—a partnership among universities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that seeks to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to create a sustainable economy and environment. (PR)

Life & Style

Britney Spears' court-appointed attorney resigns

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' court-appointed attorney on Tuesday filed documents to resign from her conservatorship, the latest of several such moves that have come in the fallout from the pop singer's comments in court decrying the legal arrangement that controls her money and affairs.

Samuel Ingham III filed documents in Los Angeles Superior Court requesting that the court appoint Spears a new

attorney, and saying his resignation would take effect as soon as that happened.

During her June 23 speech in court, in which she condemned the conservatorship and asked Judge Brenda Penny to end it, Spears was critical of Ingham, and said she wished the court would allow her to hire a lawyer of her choice.

Last week, Bessemer Trust, the estate-management company that Spears had requested replace her father as con-

servator of her finances, filed its own documents withdrawing from the case. The filing said that circumstances had changed after Spears' comments in court on June 23.

At a hearing in November, Penny denied Spears' request to have her father replaced entirely, but said James Spears and Bessemer Trust could work together as co-conservators of her finances.

And on Monday, in a letter obtained by entertainment

industry publication Deadline, Britney Spears' longtime manager Larry Rudolph also resigned, saying she had no intention of resuming her career after a 2 1/2 year hiatus that has left him with no work to do for her.

A veteran probate attorney, Ingham was for years a largely silent figure in the conserva-

torship, at least publicly, but became a more vocal advocate for Britney Spears starting last year. His statements in court that she feared her father and would not resume her career so long as he had power over it were an early crack in the presumed consensus among the figures involved in the conservatorship.

At the June 23 hearing, Ingham said that Britney Spears had not asked him to file a petition to end the conservatorship, but said he expected she might do so soon. In her remarks critical of Ingham, Spears said during the hearing that she hadn't known she could file such a petition, and she still has not.



Jamie Spears, father of singer Britney Spears, leaves the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles on Oct. 24, 2012, left, and Britney Spears arrives at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas on May 17, 2015. AP

Bruce Springsteen's daughter makes Olympic equestrian team

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—The daughter of rock icon Bruce Springsteen and singer-songwriter Patti Scialfa has been selected as one of four riders on the U.S. jumping team that will compete at the Tokyo Olympics.

U.S. Equestrian announced Monday that Jessica Springsteen would be making her Olympic debut.

The 29-year-old has said being selected would fulfill a lifelong dream.

Springsteen will team with Kent Farrington, Laura Kraut and McLain Ward when the equestrian competition begins Aug. 3. The team will be led by chef d'equipe Robert Ridland and Lizzy Chesson.

"I feel very confident that the seasoned group of riders

that we will be sending to Tokyo is in top current form and peaking at just the right time," Ridland said in a statement.

Farrington is 40, Ward 45 and Kraut 55, and the trio has competed at a combined seven Olympics.

Springsteen, ranked third behind Kraut and Ward, will be riding 12-year-old stallion Don Juan van de Donkhoeve.

14 of 32 competitors at Miss Mexico pageant had coronavirus

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Contestants from 14 of Mexico's 32 states at a Miss Mexico contest tested positive for the coronavirus, a health official in the northern Mexico border state of Chihuahua said Tuesday.

State Health Secretary

Eduardo Fernández Herrera told local media that all the contestants had all submitted negative tests before the pageant in the state capital.

But authorities received an anonymous tip that one person was in fact infected with

the virus.

After tests were performed, almost half of the contestants were found to be positive along with one non-contestant. The contest was shortened and brought to an end Saturday after the results came in.

Regulator halts Iowa amusement ride after accident kills boy

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—A regulator on Tuesday ordered an Iowa amusement park not to restart a popular boat ride pending an investigation into an accident that killed an 11-year-old boy and left his brother in critical condition.

Iowa Labor Commissioner Rod Roberts signed an order barring Adventureland Park from operating the Raging River until an investigation by his office is complete and all hazards are corrected, a spokeswoman said.

Adventureland, based near Des Moines in Altoona, voluntarily stopped operating the ride after Saturday night's accident in which a boat carrying six members of a family flipped over. The park remains open.

Michael Jaramillo died Sunday from his injuries, and ABC's "Good Morning America" reported Tuesday that his teenage brother, David Jr., was hospitalized in a medically induced coma. Another teenage brother has been released from the hospital.

Their father, David Jaramillo, was also injured. He recounted what happened when the boat capsized in an interview broadcast Tuesday.

"When it flipped over, all of us were trapped in the safety seat belts," he said. "I see the silhouettes of my sons trying to grab each other, grab us. They want us to help them. We couldn't do it."

Mother Sabrina Jaramillo added, "I feel like Adventure-

land robbed me of my baby. I will never get a chance to see him grow up."

The boat was carrying the five Jaramillos and an 18-year-old female relative, according to a police report released Tuesday. All have addresses in Cedar Rapids or the suburb of Marion.

Ryan Best, an attorney for the family, said they were at the park to celebrate David Jr.'s birthday.

"What should have been a fun day for the family turned into a nightmare when the family was the victim of a tragic failure by Adventureland to provide for their safety on the Raging River ride and failure to timely respond during the incident," he said.

Mother continues to treat grown son like a child

DEAR ABBY: Several months after we met, my partner asked me to move into her home. That was three years ago. She told me she had a son who was living with her, but that he would soon be moving into his own place. I have never loved anyone the way I do her, but her son is a different story.

What she didn't tell me before I moved in was that he is 37 years old and hasn't worked more than three weeks in his life. He is not physically or mentally disabled. In fact, he is extremely bright in the tech field. He is totally dependent on his mother to pay for everything, including his car. He buys nothing.

She gives him a hefty "allowance" for doing her yardwork. He has no shame about being a slacker, and she keeps saying she wants him out on his own, but she sets no deadlines. I want her to set a departure date. Her son has to grow up, get a job and move out six months after that, just as my daughter and son both did. They now have families and are economically sound.

I want my partner and me to have our own home together. She's pushing marriage, and I'm thinking I should use my head and move back to Florida. I have no security here and I do not want any responsibility for him. Any advice?

SMARTER WOMAN

pressing for marriage, but you absolutely shouldn't do it under these circumstances. Set a departure date at which time either her son moves out, or you do. I agree that the man (37!) needs to move out and accept responsibility for himself, but it won't happen as long as Mama is his enabler.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: At family gatherings, I can't get a word in edgewise. When I try to join the conversation, invariably someone—usually my wife—cuts me off, dismisses what I have to say as "fiction" and shuts me down. It is extremely disrespectful and I feel humiliated and embarrassed by her comments. My silence does not mean consent.

She and the family live by the rule that the one who speaks loudest speaks best. I have complained privately to her to no avail. She won't admit there's a problem. She says these verbal free-for-alls are a part of her "culture." I love her and the family, but have begun to withdraw as much as I can from these gatherings. For what it's worth, I'm fairly well-educated, stay reasonably well-informed, have traveled quite a bit and believe I could add worthwhile and valid input to our gatherings, if I had the chance. Please advise.

UNHEARD MAN OF THE FAMILY

DEAR SMARTER WOMAN: Your partner may be

DEAR UNHEARD: You may be the "man of the family,"

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



but your wife assumed the dominant role the first time she dismissed what you were saying as "fiction." You may love her and her overbearing, disrespectful family, but what has been going on is a part of no "culture" I have heard of. Nothing will change until you either insist that she be sensitive to your feelings, treat you with respect and refuse to attend gatherings if you are not allowed to fully participate.

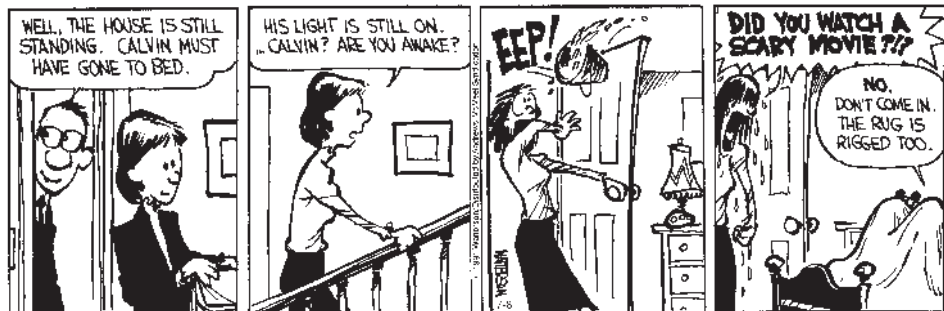
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For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

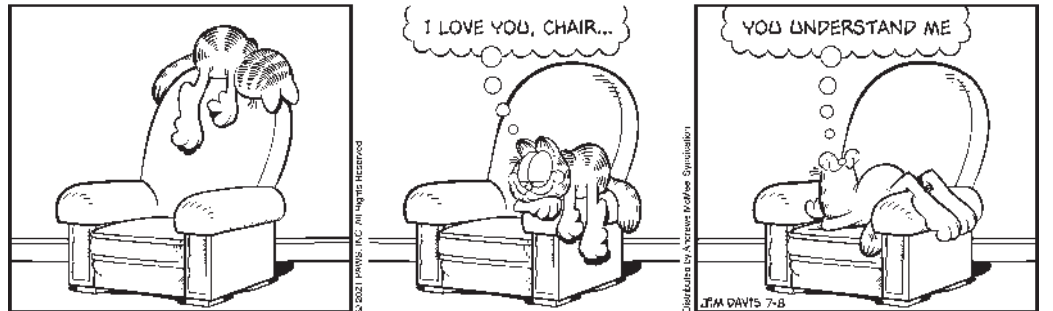
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



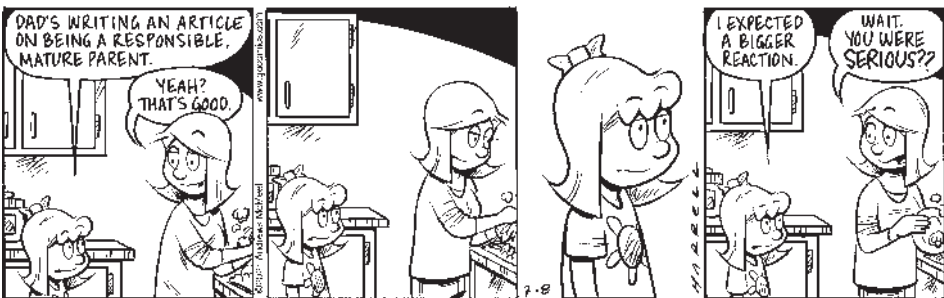
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



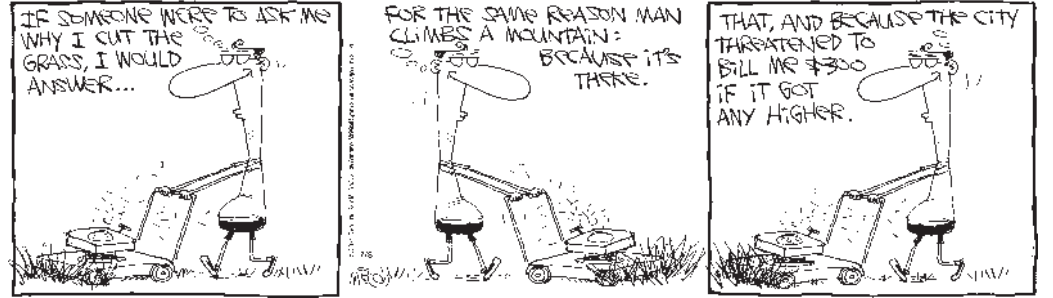
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Forehead
5 Rain-delay cover
9 TV schedule abbr.
12 Drill
13 "The Time Machine" people
14 —
15 Mattress spec
17 Nosh
18 Gems
19 Chef's hat
21 Tagged player
22 "Crazy Moon" (Sinatra hit)
24 Golfer's cry
27 Wish otherwise
28 Estate recipient
31 "Hail, Caesar!"
32 — standstill
33 Green prefix

DOWN

1 Cookouts, briefly
2 Lopsided win
3 Layered cookie
4 Hot dog
5 Hardy heroine
6 Frazier foe
7 Cartoonist
8 Chast
9 Devoutness
10 2006 Helen Mirren film
11 Boyfriend
12 Jocular Johnson
16 Court divider
20 Sound of delight
22 Belly button type
23 Make well
24 Passing craze
25 Eggs
26 "Through the Looking-Glass" character
27 Prego rival
29 Hosp. area
30 Filch
35 Deli creation
37 Game fish
39 Suffix akin to "ish"
40 Prohibit
41 Glitz partner
42 Ready for harvest
43 Existed
44 Fill up
45 La Scala solo
46 Island in a computer game
49 Online address
50 Conceit

Solution time: 24 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 7-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Thabo Mbeki, 30; Sophia Bush, 39; Milo Ventimiglia, 44; Anjelica Huston, 70.

Happy Birthday: Consider what you can accomplish, then set your plans in motion. A change will drum up unexpected opposition, but with an honest evaluation and explanation, you will be able to get others to see things your way. Using truth, vision and a strategy that leads to doing something worthwhile, you will satisfy your desire to make a difference. Your numbers are 7, 12, 25, 27, 34, 46, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Authenticate information. Dedicate time to helping a cause or someone in need of help. The rewards will exceed the effort spent. Romance is in the stars, and a passionate gesture will lead to a healthy relationship with someone special. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Leave nothing to chance. Pay attention to detail, and don't believe everything you hear. An emotional situation will arise if you make assumptions. A problem at home will affect your ability to get things done on time. Avoid overpaying for something. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Emotions will be difficult to control. Don't accommodate someone who is trying to guilt you into doing something. Honesty will pay off when dealing with matters that can influence your reputation or your position. Let your experience guide you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Express yourself creatively, but don't make impossible promises. Staying within your limits

will ease stress and encourage you to take precautions when dealing with persuasive individuals. Avoid impulsive purchases and donations you cannot afford. Stick to basics and tell the truth. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Use common sense. Consider if something you do has a negative influence on your reputation or status. Distance yourself from gossip and controlling people. Do your own thing and take care of your physical and emotional well-being. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look for the positive in everything and everyone. Reach out and work alongside those who are trying to get similar results. Don't limit what you can do because of restrictions; find an innovative way to surpass any obstacles you encounter. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Rethink your strategy; cut back where you can. Simplicity will help you streamline your plans to ensure you reach your goal. Take physical action, and finish what you start. Don't wait for someone to do the work for you. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put home and family first. Make adjustments that will encourage you to be more productive. Clear a space and get down to business. Reinvent the way you approach people and projects that can make a difference to your life and your community. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look inward and plan work on self-improvement. Fitness, health, love and lifestyle changes will lead to personal happiness. Make plans with someone you want to spend

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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more time with. Simplify your life, and walk away from chaos and confusion. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you don't like something, make a change. Take control of situations, and you'll uncover a gem of an opportunity that will encourage you to let go of negativity and embrace a positive attitude and direction. Do what makes you happy. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Go over every detail, then find the best way to proceed. Aim to get things right the first time and avoid setbacks. Get along with others, but don't agree to something just to keep the peace. Use common sense. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take pride in what you do, and make changes based on what you can financially afford. Expect someone to misrepresent you or lead you astray. Take matters into your own hands, and you'll get the results you want. *****

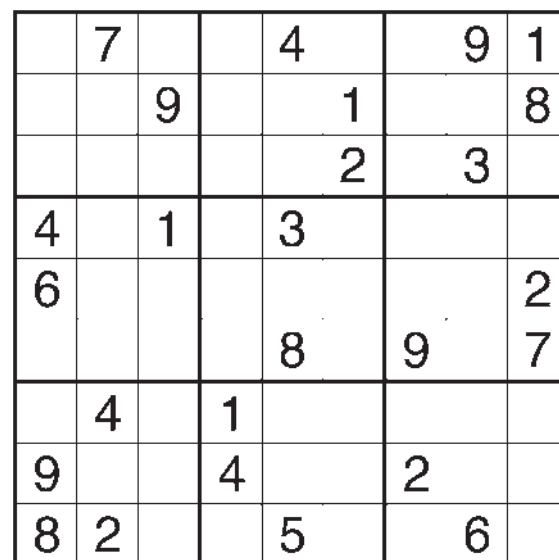
Birthday Baby: You are innovative, colorful and expressive. You are insightful and frivolous.

☉: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☿: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☽: Aim high; start new projects. ☿☽☽☽: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

7/08

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	7	8	5	3	4	2	1	6
1	2	4	9	7	6	3	5	8
5	6	3	2	8	1	9	7	4
8	9	6	3	2	7	1	4	5
3	5	1	4	6	9	8	2	7
7	4	2	1	5	8	6	9	3
2	8	5	7	9	3	4	6	1
6	1	9	8	4	5	7	3	2
4	3	7	6	1	2	5	8	9

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GYMNASTICS RIBBON ROUTINES

Solution: 5 letters

E P A E L A D E M U T S O C F
K T A D O O W R I S T L A I L
A T E R S T A O L F Y T G R E
N H H P T O S S R M C U R C X
S R E C M S P H P H R R O L I
S E I I H O Y I A E T D U E B
D A G S H T C G E N R W P L L
S D H U H S G I N A D E I L E
G P T M S P G N W I T L O R E
N E I K A H M R E S R R E T L
I C C R T T O U E L Y T S S B
W O I N A F S T J T F O S K M
S L C W A L K O V E R N O I U
R O O L F D O W E L K K L L T
G R A S P E R F O R M W O L F

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Catch, Circle, Color, Complete, Costume, Dance, Dowel, Figure, Eight, Flexible, Floats, Floor, Flow, Forward, Grasp, Group, Handle, Height, Hops, Jump, Knot, Leap, Length, Mats, Medal, Music, Olympics, Perform, Rhythmic, Roll, Rule, Skill, Snake, Socks, Soft, Solo, Speed, Spiral, Step, Strap, String, Style, Swings, Thread, Toss, Tumble, Turn, Twirl, Walkover, Wood, Wrist

Yesterday's Answer: Copacabana

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at

www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Paul carries Suns past Giannis, Bucks in NBA Finals opener

PHOENIX (AP)—Chris Paul waited 16 years to get to the NBA Finals, bringing with him a team starving for its first championship.

The setting was entirely new.

The performance was same ol' Chris Paul.

"Just knew he's ready," Phoenix forward Mikal Bridges said. "He's prepared his whole life for this moment and it shows out there on the court."

Paul had 32 points and nine assists in an NBA Finals debut that was well worth the wait, Devin Booker scored 27 points and the Suns beat the returning Giannis Antetokounmpo and his Milwaukee Bucks 118-105 on Tuesday night in Game 1.

Paul scored 16 points during a sensational third quarter that had Phoenix fans who waited 28 years to see the NBA Finals again screaming in delight. "Every time he shoots it we think it's going in," Booker said.

It almost did in the third quarter, when Paul was 6 for 7 and made all three 3-pointers.

Finally playing for the title in his 16th season, the star point guard has the Suns in the NBA Finals for only the third time, and it sure looked as if they could make this ending different than the other two.

"We've been building all season long for these moments," Paul said. "We're going to keep playing. This is just one game. We've got to stay locked in."

Deandre Ayton added 22 points and 19 rebounds to continue his breakout stretch of play in his first postseason.

Antetokounmpo had 20



Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul (3) drives past Milwaukee Bucks guard Jrue Holiday (21) during the second half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals, Tuesday, July 6, 2021, in Phoenix.

seven near the midpoint of the fourth before Paul helped the Suns restore a safe margin. He found Booker for a 3-pointer, stole the ball from Middleton and then hit a jumper to make it 106-94.

Milwaukee also is making its third finals appearance, having won the title in 1971 but not getting another chance since losing in 1974. The Bucks got a boost for this appearance when Antetokounmpo worked his way back quickly from an injury that looked serious when it happened.

The two-time MVP missed the final two games of the Eastern Conference finals. He was listed as doubtful for the opener, but he was upgraded to questionable Tuesday and then inserted into the starting lineup after he worked out on the court before the game.

"I'm just happy that I'm out there and I'm able to help my team in any way possible and participate in my first NBA Finals," Antetokounmpo said.

The Bucks threw a lob to Antetokounmpo on their first possession — a play similar to the one he was defending when he was injured in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals against Atlanta — and he seemed to attack the basket just as forcefully as always.

But Jrue Holiday, who played so well while Antetokounmpo was out, shot just 4 for 14 and scored 10 points.

points and 17 rebounds after missing two games with a hyperextended left knee. Khris Middleton scored 29 points, but the Bucks will have to play from behind again after dropping Game 1 for the third straight series.

"We know it's not going to be easy. We know it's going to be tough," Middleton said. "There's times where we're going to be down in this series. But this series isn't over. We're down. We've still got to keep competing and just playing."

The series opener was the first NBA Finals game in Phoenix since Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls won their third straight championship

here in Game 6 in 1993. The Suns, who came into the NBA with the Bucks in 1968, made their only other finals appearance in 1976.

They hadn't even made the playoffs since 2010 and just two years ago were last in the Western Conference with a 19-63 record.

But Booker was already headed for stardom by then, and 2018 No. 1 pick Ayton has played at that level in the postseason. Paul has been steady as always since his arrival in an offseason trade.

Now 36 and a 10-time All-NBA selection, he is on the list of best players to never win a

championship. It appeared he might never even get to play for one until Oklahoma City dealt him to a team of Suns on the rise, and he might be the final piece that takes them all the way to the top.

Despite so many debuts on the finals stage—the Suns' Jae Crowder was the only player who had appeared in them, and that was for Miami at a neutral site last year—there didn't appear to be many first-time jitters.

But Paul shifted the Suns into another gear in the third. His opening jumper provided the first double-digit lead of

the game, and he followed with a four-point play for the Suns' next basket.

He scored eight straight Phoenix points later in the period, hitting a 3-pointer, dancing around Bobby Portis for a layup and then hitting another 3. He then fired a pass to Ayton, who was fouled and made both free throws to make it 88-68 with 2:20 left.

"Their pick-and-roll game is tough to guard," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said. "I think we've just got to keep getting better. We'll look at the film. We'll see how we can maybe take away some of the rhythm."

The Bucks cut it down to



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—When Angelique Kerber grabbed the opening set of her Wimbledon quarterfinal Tuesday, the full-capacity crowd saluted the accomplishment with cheers that bounced off the closed roof at No. 1 Court.

Kerber's reaction? Just a matter-of-fact, straight-faced stroll to the sideline. No shouts or leaps or fist pumps. Unlike the other women headed to the semifinals at the All England Club, this is not new to her. Not at all. It's just that it's been a while.

The owner of three Grand Slam titles, including at Wimbledon in 2018, Kerber moved back into the final four at the grass-court major by using her knee-to-the-turf agility and quick reflexes to beat No. 19 seed Karolina Muchova 6-2, 6-3.

"I remember how I played here," said Kerber, a 33-year-old left-hander from Germany, who did let loose by shaking her fists when her victory ended. "I know how to play on (a) grass court."

Next, No. 25 seed Kerber

2018 champion Kerber vs. No. 1 Barty in Wimbledon semifinals

takes on No. 1 Ash Barty, who eliminated 75th-ranked Ajla Tomljanovic 6-1, 6-3 in the first all-Australian major quarterfinal in 40 years.

"It's the ultimate test," Barty said, looking ahead to Thursday's matchup. "Angie's obviously had success here before."

Barty won the 2019 French Open, but she had never been to the quarterfinals at the All England Club. Indeed, this was the first time in the Open era, which began in 1968, that the tournament had six first-time women's quarterfinalists.

Only Kerber and Muchova, who also lost at this stage in 2019, boasted past experience.

The other semifinal is No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka against No. 8 Karolina Pliskova.

Sabalenka collected her tour-leading 34th match win of 2021 by defeating No. 21 seed Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-3, and Pliskova topped unseeded Viktorija Golubic 6-2, 6-2.

This was the first day of

100% capacity in the two main stadiums after COVID-19 restrictions placed a 50% cap on attendance when the fortnight began. With rain falling much of the afternoon, the singles matches were played at Centre Court and No. 1 Court with the roofs shut and spectators allowed to be maskless—the All England Club says the arena's ventilation systems allow them to be considered outdoor venues.

Pliskova—the 2016 U.S. Open runner-up to Kerber—claimed 24 of 26 points on her serve in one stretch, hit eight aces and saved the only three break chances she faced.

"Everything today was working quite well," said Pliskova, who averaged 106.5 mph on her first serves, 20.5 mph faster than Golubic.

Pliskova has been broken only three times through five matches so far and has not dropped a set.

She also hasn't played anyone ranked better than 47th yet. Now comes a test.

Jabeur's game is full of novelty and nuance, with drop shots and all manner of angles and spin.

Sabalenka? She is all about power and big cuts at the ball, and even with that constantly aggressive style, she managed to accumulate more winners, 27, than unforced errors, 20.

"She played," Tunisia's Jabeur said, "the match of her life."

Sabalenka, a 23-year-old from Belarus, hadn't been past the fourth round at any major previously.

But she agreed hers was a "great performance."

"I still have this opportunity to win a Slam," Sabalenka said. "I will do everything I can to reach my goal."

In the day's lone men's match, No. 14 seed Hubert



Hurkacz came back to edge No. 2 Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the resumption of a fourth-round contest suspended Monday night.

Hurkacz's first Grand Slam quarterfinal will come against 20-time major champion Roger Federer on Wednesday.

Kerber was certainly the best known and most accomplished of the women left in the draw as Tuesday began.

And now she's into her eighth Grand Slam semifinal, with half coming at Wimbledon. The most recent came three years ago, when she upset Serena Williams for the championship.

Kerber extended her current winning streak to 10 matches, including a title at a grass-court tuneup in Germany last month, and her first-round exits on the Australian Open's hard courts in February and French Open's red clay in May seem like forever ago.

"I never stopped to believe

in myself (and) how I can play," said Kerber, like Pliskova a former No. 1.

Kerber's game bothered Muchova the same way it troubled 17-year-old American Coco Gauff in the fourth round—with shots steered so quickly, low to the ground and flat.

"She plays good angles. It was a great match from her side," said Muchova, who draped a towel over her head while sitting during changeovers. "So, definitely, didn't help me."

Kerber only compiled 15 winners, but that was enough because she limited Muchova to just two forehand winners herself—compared to a combined 33 unforced or forced errors with that stroke.

Muchova appeared to give herself at least the possibility of turning things around by breaking to lead 2-1 in the second set. But Kerber, so steady if not spectacular, broke right back when Muchova sent a forehand long to cap a 13-stroke exchange.

That was pretty much that.

Harper leads way as Phillies hand Cubs 11th straight loss



CHICAGO
(AP)—Bryce Harper can

feel everything coming together for him and the rest of the Phillies' lineup. At the moment, they are crushing the ball.

Harper homered and tied a career high with five hits, Andrew McCutchen smacked a grand slam and Philadelphia handed Chicago its 11th straight loss, beating the Cubs 15-10 on Tuesday night.

Rhys Hoskins also went deep. The Phillies jumped on Jake Arrieta (5-9) after beating Chicago 13-3 the previous night and finished two shy of a season high with 16 hits.

"I think we're coming into our own as a team," Harper said. "Everybody's getting healthy. And we're just looking forward to the next couple of games, getting into the All-Star break and enjoying our time down, coming back and get going."

The Cubs, meanwhile, extended their worst skid since they dropped 12 in a row in May 2012. They remained winless since Zach Davies and three relievers combined to no-hit the Dodgers in Los Angeles on June 24. And with Arrieta failing to make it through the second inning in his second straight start, they fell into a huge hole.

Harper hit his seventh homer in 13 games when he crushed a three-run drive in the seventh, extending the lead to 15-4. He finished with a season-high four RBIs.

McCutchen, the game's fourth batter, smacked his third career grand slam and second this season in the first inning.

Hoskins chased Arrieta with a two-run double in the second, making it 7-0, and hit the left-field scoreboard with a drive leading off the seventh. Jean Segura chipped in with four hits and four runs.

"They're putting up runs like crazy," said Aaron Nola, who threw six innings. "I feel like every time I looked up, somebody was on base, somebody was getting a hit, walk, home run. They're pretty cool, man. Guys are battling up there, and that's what happens when you battle."

Nola (6-5) went six innings, allowing four runs and six hits. He struck out eight and walked one, and the Phillies withstood a shaky effort by their struggling bullpen.

Yankees 12, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Luke Voit went 5-for-6 with a double and three RBIs, sparking New York over Seattle.

Jameson Taillon (4-4) threw seven innings for the Yankees, who won for just the third time in their past 10 games. Taillon allowed one run on four hits



and one walk. He struck out nine, equaling his season best. New York got three-run homers from Giancarlo Stanton and Rougned Odor.

Mariners starter Justus Sheffield (5-8), who made his major league debut for the Yankees in 2018, lasted only 1 2/3 innings while losing his fourth straight decision. He allowed six runs on five hits and three walks with two strikeouts.

Angels 5, Red Sox 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani pitched seven strong innings, David Fletcher had four hits to extend his hitting streak to 20 games and Los Angeles beat Boston.

Ohtani (4-1) gave up two runs on five hits while striking out four and walking none. At the plate, he went 1-for-4 with an RBI double. Raisel Iglesias pitched the ninth for his 17th save, though he gave up a solo homer to Hunter Renfroe.

Fletcher had two doubles and two singles, drove in a run and scored while extending his career-best hitting streak. Los Angeles' Max Stassi finished a triple shy of the cycle.

Royals 7, Reds 6

In Kansas City, Salvador Perez hit a walk-off single to the wall in the ninth inning, capping a four-run rally as Kansas City defeated Cincinnati.

The Royals scored six runs off the Reds' bullpen in the final two innings. Kansas City earned just its third victory in 14 games. Cincinnati saw its

five-game winning streak end.

Andrew Benintendi and Nicky Lopez each drove in two runs for the Royals, and Kyle Farmer (two RBIs) and Tyler Stephenson each had three hits for the Reds.

Cardinals 6, Giants 5

In San Francisco, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer and Paul Goldschmidt delivered a two-run single to lead St. Louis over San Francisco.

Edmundo Sosa also homered and Yadier Molina added a run-scoring single as the Cardinals defeated the Giants for the second straight night to open a three-game series. Arenado, Molina and Sosa each had three hits for the Cardinals. Goldschmidt added two of St. Louis' 13 hits.

Brandon Crawford had four hits and three RBIs and Mike Yastrzemski had three hits and drove in one for San Francisco, which has lost six of its past nine games. Giants All-Star catcher Buster Posey (left thumb) sat out his second consecutive game.

Marlins 2, Dodgers 1 (10 innings)

Starling Marte scored the winning run with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning on a wild pitch/throwing error, leading host Miami past Los Angeles.

David Hess (2-0) earned the win with one scoreless inning of relief. He has two victories in two career appearances with the Marlins.

The unearned run in the 10th made a loser of Blake

Treinen (2-4), who retired all three batters he faced. The Dodgers entered the series on a nine-game win streak but have dropped the first two games against the Marlins.

Padres 7, Nationals 4

In San Diego, Wil Myers drove in five runs and Manny Machado celebrated his 29th birthday with three hits, including a tiebreaking single, as San Diego defeated Washington to even the teams' four-game series at a win apiece.

Myers hit a three-run homer in the fourth, had a sacrifice fly in the Padres' three-run fifth and doubled home Machado in the seventh. Machado was 3-for-4 with two doubles and three runs. Myers was 2-for-3 with the homer and double. The Padres had 14 hits.

Juan Soto and Josh Harrison homered for the Nationals, who got three hits from Yan Gomes.

Astros 9, Athletics 6

In Houston, Yordan Alvarez slugged a pair of home runs and Jose Altuve added a two-run single as Houston rallied from an early deficit to beat Oakland.

Alvarez, making his return from the paternity list after missing the final three games of a four-game set in Cleveland, bashed a two-run homer in the first inning and a three-run shot in the fifth that knotted the score at 6-6.

Houston trailed 6-2 before rallying with a run in the fourth inning and three-run uprisings in the fifth and sixth. Elvis An-

drus had three hits and scored twice for Oakland.

Orioles 7, Blue Jays 5

In Baltimore, Pedro Severino, Cedric Mullins and Anthony Santander hit two-run homers, Spenser Watkins won his first major league start and Baltimore defeated Toronto.

The Orioles stopped a three-game losing streak by winning the opener of a three-game series. Watkins (1-0), who had pitched one major league inning before the start, allowed one run, three hits and three walks while striking out two in five innings.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. had three hits, including a two-run homer, and Randal Grichuk and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. added solo shots for the Blue Jays. Toronto starter Steven Matz (7-4) gave up four runs (three earned) and six hits in four-plus innings.

Twins 4, White Sox 1

In Minneapolis, Carlos Rodon allowed one run over six innings and Zack Collins went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBIs to lead Chicago over Minnesota in a game played in a steady rain.

Rodon (7-3) scattered seven hits and didn't walk a batter while striking out eight en route to just his second win in his past 10 starts. Liam Hendriks, aided by a diving catch in the gap in left-center by Billy Hamilton, retired all six batters he faced for his American League-leading 22nd save.

Alex Kirilloff and Miguel

Philadelphia Phillies' Andrew McCutchen watches his grand slam off Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Jake Arrieta during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 6, 2021, in Chicago.

Sano each had two hits for Minnesota, which had a three-game home winning streak snapped. Jose Berrios (7-3) took the loss despite allowing just two runs (one earned) on one hit over seven innings. Berrios, who retired 16 of the last 17 batters he faced, struck out 10.

Pirates 2, Braves 1

In Pittsburgh, Bryan Reynolds drew a bases-loaded walk in the ninth inning to lift Pittsburgh past Atlanta for its third straight win.

Rodolfo Castro led off the bottom of the ninth by drawing a walk from Tyler Matzek (0-3) — his first time on base in the majors. Adam Frazier singled, advancing Castro to second. Ke'Bryan Hayes walked to load the bases, and Reynolds drew a walk and force in Castro.

Reynolds also had a sacrifice fly as he accounted for both RBIs for Pittsburgh. Pirates starter Chad Kuhl went six innings, allowing one run and four hits with seven strikeouts. Richard Rodriguez (4-1) pitched a scoreless ninth. Orlando Arcia homered for the Braves, who have lost three of four.

Rangers 10, Tigers 5

In Arlington, Texas, John Hicks homered for the fourth time in as many games and drove in three runs as Texas evened its three-game series against Detroit.

Hicks became the first player ever to homer four times in his first four games as a Ranger. Brock Holt and Adolis Garcia added solo homers and David Dahl contributed three hits and two RBIs for Texas, which won for the seventh time in 11 games.

The Tigers' three-game winning streak came to an end despite homers from Robbie Grossman, Jake Rogers and Eric Haase.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 3

In Phoenix, David Peralta drove in the winning run when he was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth as Arizona beat Colorado.

Peralta also doubled and Stephen Vogt had two hits for the Diamondbacks. Closer Joakim Soria (1-3) pitched the top of the ninth to get the victory.

Brendan Rodgers had two hits for Colorado, which lost for the ninth time in 10 road games and dropped to a major-league-worst 6-32 away from home.

Team Rota hopes to shake off 'jitters' next time

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Team Rota captain Olen Jacob said they will have to do a better job in controlling their nerves if they ever hope to beat Team Saipan in the 2nd Annual 670 Friendship Golf Tournament that Saipan will be hosting next year.

Jacob admitted that he and his teammates were nervous coming into the tournament, considering it's the very first time they played a match play tournament.

"We had to look it up and read about this new format. Nonetheless, we had a lot of fun and great experience playing against Saipan golfers. Probably next time we're gonna prepare the course to our own advantage," he said, adding that they're already looking forward to bringing the

perpetual trophy back home to Rota next year.

Among the visiting golfers, the Team Rota skipper said he came away very impressed with J.J. Atalig's son, Joshua.

"For somebody so young he's already very impressive. In the individual play, he didn't win but he gave his opponent a hard time," he said.

Jacob also thanked all Saipan players for showing up and supporting the event and extended his gratitude to the Rota Municipal Council for sponsoring the trophies in the last-minute tournament. He particularly sent his kudos to municipal council chair Jim Atalig, vice chair Jonovan Lizama, and secretary William Taitano.

Team Saipan captain Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho said the inaugural 670 Friendship Golf Tournament, which they won 9.5-2.5, came out very successful despite it being put together in the 11th hour.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Team Saipan and Team Rota players pose for a group photo during the awards banquet for the Inaugural 670 Friendship Golf Tournament last Saturday at the Rota Resort & Country Club.

"The event was pretty much put together on a last-minute basis but the guys on Rota really made it happen and I really want

to thank three individuals—Olen Jacob, Domingo Atalig, and Henry 'Small' Manglona. These guys were the backbone

of the event. Team Saipan had a blast and we can't wait to have these guys over next year where we can treat them the way we

were greeted and treated. It was awesome and I can't thank these guys enough for all their efforts," he said.

4TH

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the 4th of July race and said he was happy to do it. "I'm glad to have run the race but the only service-related memory I had from 2-mile run was from how my best 2-mile time from the Army days was less than as long as it took me to run the last mile this year."

Run Saipan's Dela Cruz, meanwhile, thanked Cutting and Latte Built Gym for making the 4th of July Independence Day 2-mile Race possible.

"Thank you so much to Derek Cutting and Latte Built for taking ownership and sponsoring a great run for 4th of July. Thank you to Marianas Visitors Authority for providing our race clock for all our run events. Thank you to Dr. Ron Snyder and Saipan International School for provid-

ing the start/finish archway for our runners. Most of all thank you to our volunteer staff and runners that came out today to celebrate our independence."

He also thanked the local media and volunteer photographers Lao Zhang and John Ibajan for lending their creative talents in covering Run Saipan and NMA's event.

Marshall Hoskins and Tiana Cabrera won the 4th of July Run from Garapan Fishing Base to National Office Supply and back with times of 11:50:39 and 15:11:57, respectively. Completing the Top 3 in the men's division were Kosuke Sato (12:01:31) and Ken Song (12:25:61), while coming in second for the women was Mira Valle (17:44:86) and third place was Anika Snyder (17:59:25). A total of 20 took part in the early morning race.

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more countries to submit their final numbers," he said.

The former lawmaker also enjoined the entire CNMI community to welcome the athletes and officials of the coming Mini Games with open arms as the islands host this one-of-a-kind sporting event.

"Since our first initial meeting organizing the Pacific Games committee, I came to realize that the best sporting event in Oceania will be hosted by our great CNMI and I encourage our whole community and businesses to give our 2022 Pacific Games Organizing Committee their full support, as we prepare to accommodate our visiting brothers and sisters from throughout the Pacific."

Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta, for his part, is excited with the latest head count for the 11th staging of the Mini Games that also marks the first time the CNMI

will be hosting the regional sports competition.

"Over 1,400 athletes and the rest are officials and support team/Pacific Games association representatives are coming to the CNMI for the Mini Games... I'm excited and looking forward to very good competition for each of the events," he said.

Of the 21 island nations that have so far confirmed, the largest delegation is from the Solomon Islands with 212 athletes and officials, followed by Papua New Guinea with 172, host CNMI with 164, Fiji with 153, Guam with 144, Palau with 140, Tahiti with 136, Samoa with 122, New Caledonia with 108, American Samoa with 75, Wallis & Futuna with 66, Cook Islands with 65, Tonga with 63, Tuvalu with 52, Nauru with 47, Vanuatu with 41, Federated States of Micronesia with 40, Kiribati with 35, Norfolk Islands with 29, Niue with 18, and Marshall Islands with 17.

Babauta said they are still waiting on confirmations from Australia and New Zealand,

hinting that it may come after the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, while adding that Tokelau most likely will beg off from taking part in the Mini Games next year.

In terms of sports, the most athletes confirmed is in va'a or outrigger canoe with 294, followed by weightlifting with 218, athletics with 216, baseball with 136, tennis with 128, badminton with 108, golf with 108, beach volleyball with 64, and triathlon with 53.

As far as accommodations go, Babauta said the organizing committee is in close contact with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands to properly welcome athletes and officials with satisfactory living quarters during their stay in the islands. He said Marianas High School, which in the 2006 Micronesian Games served as athletes village, will now be the galley and meeting area for athletes.

Aside from the Coral Ocean Golf Resort as the venue for golf, Babauta also said that the other eight sports in the 2022

Mini Games events calendar have also found venues and they are the following—Oleai track and field for athletics, Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium for badminton, Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Baseball Field for baseball, Crowne Plaza Resort for beach volleyball, American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club Saipan for tennis, Saipan World Resort for weightlifting, Garapan Fishing Base for va'a, and Rota for triathlon.

Peter added that hosting a successful Mini Games is a perfect capstone in the CNMI's road to recovery following Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic since 2020.

"Let me emphasize that this will be the first-ever hosting of this magnitude and we don't know if will ever get this kind of opportunity in the near future. I am beyond ecstatic that our community will rise up from the challenges that we have lived through since 2015. We are Marianas Strong!"

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try other sports and see how she will do with them. If she finds other sports interesting and she wants to play badminton or volleyball, then that would be great. As long as they are active and doing something good, especially during this school break, we as parents are all for it. We thank the organizers of the sports camp for giving our children an opportunity to learn new sports," Deepthi Dasari said.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation-Saipan Soccer School Summer Camp 2021 will last until July 30 and acknowledged all its partners for making this activity possible. The camp organizers are teaming up with the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Associa-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the Summer Sports Camp 2021 pose with volunteers and Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Saipan Soccer School officials for a group photo before starting their sessions.

tion, Northern Marianas Badminton Association, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, and Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation in conducting the sessions for four sports. The

CNMI Public School System is also a key partner in the program, as it provides free meals to camp participants.

"We would like to thank the volunteers from the four sports association for sharing their

knowledge and skills to our camp participants. The TSL Foundation and Saipan Soccer School would also like to recognize the CNMI Public School System for assisting us in this program. Through

this partnership, we hope to reach out to more children and encourage them to remain active through sports during this school break," TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino.

Registration still on

Meanwhile, summer camp coordinator Christy Villafior said interested participants are still welcome to sign up.

Registration forms are available at the TSL Sports Complex and can also be obtained by sending email to christy_villafior@saipansoccerschool.org or calling SSS at 235-0560 extension 156 or Rina Robles at extension 118.

Sessions run from Monday to Friday, starting off with badminton and soccer at 8am and 8:30am, respectively. Basketball session is set from 10:30am to 12pm, while volleyball is from 9am to 10am. Soccer has two more sessions with the second one beginning at 9:30am and the third at 10:30am, while the second session of badminton is at 10am. (PR)



Paul carries Suns past Giannis, Bucks in NBA Finals opener

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Team Rota hopes to shake off 'jitters' next time

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nearly 1,900 confirmed for Mini Games

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee said nearly 1,900 athletes and officials from 21 island nations have so far confirmed their participation in the quadrennial sports event the CNMI is hosting next year.

According to a numeral count prepared by the organizing committee last June 30, a total of 1,899 made up of 1,425 athletes, 266 team officials, 130 PGA (Pacific Games association) officials, 52 medical staff, and 20 media



MARK RABAGO

Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee CEO Vicente "Ben" Babauta addresses the crowd during the Mini Games launch ceremony last June 17 at the Oleai Sports Complex.

will descend to the Commonwealth to partake in the Mini Games.

Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter expects the number to go up as Australia and New Zealand have yet to submit their delegation



numbers for the Mini Games.

"With our current participation numbers at about 1,900, we are anticipating to exceed the 2,000 mark as we wait for a couple

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4th of July run was almost a 1-miler

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Latte Built Gym owner Derek Cutting said last Sunday's Inaugural 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race almost became a 1-mile course.

He said when they were planning the annual event to commemorate America's birthday, Run Saipan's Edward Dela Cruz suggested that the course be only 1 mile, but he suggested that it be 2 miles based on the Army Combat Fitness Test run.

"We talked about doing this annually and we thought the best time would be the 4th of July. I'm almost a 20-year veteran and I'm still in the Army. Latte Built being veteran-owned and I thought it would be nice to make an annual run. Being Independence Day and 4th of July it would be a nice start for the day. Two miles is based on the Army physical fitness test. At first Ed asked if we could do a 1-miler and I figured we'll if it's gonna be Army-based then might as well make it at least 2 miles to



LAO ZHANG

Latte Built Gym owner Derek Cutting, left, poses with Inaugural 4th of July Independence Day 2-Mile Race women's Top 3, from left, second place Mira Valle, first place Tiana Cabrera, and third place Anika Snyder.

represent the run we had to do in our physical fitness test," he told *Saipan Tribune* after the run along the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

Cutting said if there was any regret in organizing the 4th of July Independence Day, it was that they didn't make it public sooner.

"It was great. A lot of avid runners are part of the Run Saipan club and a lot of them came out. I think next year will spread the word sooner and we'll have a better turnout."

Cutting, who thanked Run Saipan and Northern Marianas Athletics in helping stage the race, also reminisced about his first time to take the Army Combat Fitness Test run.

"I still have to run 2 miles now but it's not as fast as it used to be. My best time was 12:53 and I've averaged like 14:30s the past 10 years," he said.

Brad Ruszala, an Army veteran who served in 9th Infantry Regiment, took part in

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More than 60 join Summer Sports Camp



Over 60 youth spent their school break learning the basics of four sports in Day 1 of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation-Saipan Soccer School Summer Camp 2021 at the TSL Sports Complex.

Children in the 5 to 18 age group attended lessons and drills in badminton, basketball, volleyball, and soccer (futsal) last Tuesday and look forward for the remainder of the monthlong summer camp.

"I signed up to attend all the sessions. I started with futsal and also tried badminton and basketball. Tomorrow, I will attend the volleyball session," 7-year-old Chance Reyes said.

"My dad encouraged me to attend the camp and stay active this summer. It's good to be out and play sports rather



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Summer Sports Camp 2021 do dribbling drills and are assisted by NMI Rollers Basketball Association volunteers last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

than stay at home and spend so much time playing with my gadgets," said Reyes,

who with his father Maynard drove all the way from Kagman to the Middle Road facility to participate in the month-long summer camp.

For parents of camp participants, the event gives their child an opportunity to discover new talents.

"My daughter Advika plays soccer with the Paire Football Club. I want her to

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camp participants and volunteers perform warm-up drills during their first futsal session.